Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-93-048 *15 March 1993*

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Argentina's Menem Urges Support for GATT Talks

PY1303164693 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0046 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 12 Mar (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem sent a letter to all leaders of the most powerful industrialized countries on behalf of 38 countries to urge their support for a successful conclusion to the Uruguay GATT round being held in Geneva.

The letter, in which Menem warns about the proliferation of protectionist measures, was addressed to U.S. President Bill Clinton; EEC President Jacques Delors; Danish Prime Minister Paul Nyrup Rasmusseni, who is also the European Council head; and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

The letter's text says: "I herewith urge you to assign top priority to the efforts made for the sake of a quick and successful conclusion to the Uruguay GATT round."

Menem says: "Those who lead the powerful countries must not fail in expressing their concern about the global economy's poor health, which already has provoked a continuous and high level of unemployment and increasing protectionist (?pressures)."

He adds: "The successful conclusion of the Uruguay GATT round may substantially contribute to reversing these shocking trends."

The letter says: "The decision to impose new reductions on trade barriers and to strengthen and expand the multilateral disciplines of exchange may be instrumental in improving businessmen's necessary confidence, which is a vital aspect for promoting investment and international trade."

Menem notes that "a successful conclusion to the Uruguay GATT round also should take into account developing countries' needs, especially of the less developed ones, as already was established in the terms of the Montevideo Declaration."

Menem says that "careful efforts were made for six years to establish the basis for a successful result from the negotiations."

In this regard, he noted that "in order to complete this process it will be necessary to meet commitments that can lead to the access of all types of goods and services to the markets, and to resolve the few disagreements that still exist in the project for the final document."

Menem says a possible successful conclusion may run a serious risk if these steps are not taken quickly and if changes to the project's final document are subject to minimum requirements.

He states that the future of the Uruguay GATT round "and the whole multilateral trade system are in the hands of the world's powerful economies."

He adds: "We deem promising the recent announcement that the U.S. Congress will pass a bill authorizing the executive branch to resume negotiations with a clause to be approved by the majority."

The letter says: "We hope the United States, the EEC, and Japan, in their capacity as the most powerful industrial countries, will constructively commit in the additional negotiations to be held in Geneva and in all those actions that can help to quickly and successfully end the GATT round." He says the countries are aware that the Uruguay GATT round is "a global commitment that can promote the economic exchange and economic reactivation we all will share."

He adds that "consequently, in calling for the powerful countries to display their leadership in this critical stage, and to grant the Uruguay GATT round the priority it deserves, we herewith express our own commitment to contribute to a final success."

The letter was sent on behalf of the governments of Argentina, the Commonwealth, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Islandia, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Pakistan, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, Tanzania, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

The decision of these countries to entrust Carlos Menem with the mission to write and send the letter was regarded by government sources as an "honor and acknowledgement to the Argentine president."

These sources said Menem has stated on many occasions that a conviction has taken root in the past few months in the sense that if the international community does not establish the commercial rules on "reliable bases" so they can be applied by all nations, "a commercial war will continue to be a latent ghost."

The sources added that the Argentine Government and the countries that entrusted the letter to Menem are fully convinced that an eventual international trade conflict will help increase recession and unemployment.

Moreover, the countries that seek a successful conclusion to the Uruguayan GATT round admit that the agreements reached in the framework of the round will be the initial point in reducing "the arbitrariness" generated by protectionism. The letter's text was released today at the Government House by Media Communications Secretary Raul Burzaco.

Mercosur Delegates Ratify Implementation Timetable

PY1203165093 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2317 GMT 8 Mar 93

[Text] Sao Paulo, 8 Mar (TELAM)—Congressmen from the four Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries today ratified during a joint meeting the integration timetable which provides for the adoption of a unified tariff system as of 1 January 1995.

Fifty-four congressmen from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay have been meeting in Brasilia until today to study various aspects of the integration process and to issue recommendations, particularly on the compatibility of laws in the areas of transportation and commerce among the four countries.

The Argentine delegation was headed by Santa Fe Justicialist Party member Saturnino Aranda, who said in his speech to the plenary session that "all Argentine political levels are familiar with the process and are willing to maintain the current timetable."

Aranda admitted that some economic groups are uneasy, especially because of the commercial development involved in the process, but he said that in Congress "both the government faction and the opposition have already adopted a single position on the subject."

According to Deputy Nelson Proensa, chairman of the Mercosur joint parliamentary committee, the delegates to the meeting said that "there are no plans to change the timetable" for the implementation of Mercosur, because any modification of the implementation date can harm the investment projects under way in the four countries.

Congressional sources have said that efforts are being made to design support mechanisms for the economic areas that will be more affected by the integration process.

According to a report published by the newspaper GAZETA MERCANTIL this weekend, there are plans to create a fund that might receive approximately 2.5 percent of the budget of each country.

The fund could then receive as much as $6 billion, which would be used for investments in the most affected areas.

During the meeting congressmen exchanged information on the approval of intellectual property rights laws that are being debated in the Argentine and Brazilian Congresses.

In the case of Argentina, the government has already submitted a bill that Congress has not yet begun analyzing, while in Brazil a special commission is analyzing some 1,000 amendments to the original text of the law that was submitted during the Fernando Collor de Mello administration.

This law recognizes intellectual property rights for a period of 20 years. No decision, however, has yet been made on whether the law will have retroactive effect.

The Brazilian mass media believe that the commission will complete this analysis this week.

Debate Scientific, Technological Cooperation

PY1303015993 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Brazilian, Uruguayan, Argentine, and Paraguayan technicians have met here in Brasilia to debate on scientific and technological cooperation among the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] countries. Brazilian Science and Technology Minister Jose Israel Vargas presided over the conference's closing session.

This was the first meeting in a series of four that will be held this year. The technicians decided that three commissions will study the scientific-technological information system of each country, their respective laws, and the areas that will be accorded priority attention.

The results of these studies will be submitted to the next meeting, which will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay on 26, 27, and 28 May.

Give Argentina Deadline on Statistics Tax

PY1303152393 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] The Common Market of the South [Mercosur] Group meeting in Montevideo on 12 March gave the Argentine Government until 20 April to reach a final decision on the statistics tax issue. The group will meet in Asuncion on 20 April. Paraguay had asked Argentina to reduce its statistics tax on exports from third countries. This tax was raised to 10 percent in October 1992. The Paraguayan delegation to the Montevideo meeting, led by Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, claimed that Argentina had violated the Mercosur Treaty by raising its statistics tax, thus harming Paraguayan exports to Argentina. The Paraguayan delegation refused to resort to an economic solution to the conflict in order to not set a bad precedent.

Cuba

Havana Notes: Russia Enters 'Period of Revolution'

FL1203140693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1244 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by Roberto Jili]

[Text] Good morning. I am speaking from the editorial room of PRENSA LATINA to tell you about certain truly encouraging news: Russia, according to its First Vice Minister Sergey Shakhray, is on the edge of a period of revolution. The period of reform is over. The high-level official stated during an improvised news conference at the [Russian] congress that today Russia is even weaker; once again the [legislative and executive] powers have demonstrated their inability to reach a consensus. Shakhray added: The failure of the congress signals the end of the period of quick reforms. Unfortunately, we are at the doorway of revolution, the doorway to events [acontecimientos].

Fernandez Calls Human Rights Vote 'Political Vendetta'

FL1303000493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2040 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Cuba has characterized the recent vote in Geneva by the UN Commission on Human Rights against the island as a political vendetta and pointed out that the Cuban people have just expressed their support to their Revolution during the elections.

Prior to his arrival in Havana after being in Argentina for one week, Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, pointed out to reporters that in Cuba there is not a single case of a missing or tortured person as is the case in other countries. Despite this, he added, we are victims of Washington's political vendetta, which is carried out by using all the means of propaganda and any other available means in its enormous effort to isolate Cuba.

In Argentina, Fernandez held cordial and candid meetings with Argentine President Carlos Saul Menem and Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella. He explained to them the recent electoral process in detail and spoke of the complete respect for human rights in Cuba.

Radio Havana on Closing of U.S. Bases

PA1203210193 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 March 93

[Commentary by Miguel de la Guardia]

[Text] A recent news report has been called to our attention. It deals with a U.S. Government announcement that it is planning to dismantle and shut down a few bases or military installations on U.S. territory. The Defense Department was asked to carry this out and should be making an announcement on the closing of 30 bases by 15 March. In 1988, Congress approved the closing and reduction of some 35 military bases by 1991; it made 38 additional proposals after that. Until now, the closing of bases has been aimed at reducing the overinflated defense budget. The current base closures is part of Clinton's plan to improve the domestic economy. Neglect of domestic issues caused Republican George Bush to lose the presidency. It opened the gates to the White House for Clinton.

The base closings have been justified by the sudden fall of the Socialist system, especially that of the Soviet Union, and the proclaimed end of the Cold War, at least where Eastern European countries are concerned. Everything seems fine and dandy, but little has been said about the dismantling, closing, or reduction of U.S. bases overseas. U.S. presence all over the world remains a pressing reality. It does not seem as if the roles of the predominant world power, world policeman, and great universal arbitrator have lost their appeal to U.S. political leaders.

The network of U.S. military bases around the world allows Washington to deploy troops and weapons to any part of the world in a matter of hours. The United States has never kept secret its intention to act whenever it believes its interests are in danger. Action can be taken whenever it is deemed convenient for the United States.

Occassionaly the United States has shut down military bases abroad, as was the case of the U.S. base in Subic Bay, Philippines. However, many of these troops were or are being deployed to bases throughout the region such as in Singapore and Thailand. The closing of at least the excess bases that dot all five of the world's continents would be very beneficial not only for the United States, but also for the rest of the world. Some of the major benefits would be peace for other countries and savings on the considerable expenditures that such installations require. These savings could be used for works of peace and development, which would significantly help to improve the U.S. economy.

We Cubans would like to know when Congress or the Pentagon will decide to close the air and naval base in Guantanamo, which will soon have spent 100 years on Cuban territory against our will. Such a step would undoubtedly be highly commended, not only in Cuba, but also in Latin America and the world over.

Palmero on Potato, Plantain Status

FL1203175393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by Pablo Farina]

[Text] [Farina] In a productive meeting with the media, Politburo member Candido Palmero, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana Province, referred to the current situation with the potato harvest.

[Begin Palmero recording] I do not know if the potatoes... [pauses] I am really not a potato specialist but I have been with a number of comrades who know the current status of all the fields. I have listened to the opinions of enterprise directors and engineers. If the situation is not better, at least it is the same, despite the fact that the weather has been worse than last year. We can say that despite planting problems, the situation is the same, since the first caballerias have come up. That is the way it is. The potatoes from Cuban seeds are coming up and in general more than 5,000 quintals is being averaged.

We still have to plant all the potato seedlings for export. We think it will yield the same as last year—approximately 6,000 quintals, perhaps a little more. So, I must first say it is a good potato harvest. But we can say that this year's harvest is as good or perhaps a little better because we planted with a lot more experience; we carried out more technical requirements in the planting. Therefore, in general, all the large potatoes were cut to increase the number of seeds besides the fact that all the planting and weeding requirements were fulfilled. You know that we are in a peak period, and that Havana Province residents, together with residents from Havana City, had to mobilize quickly to manually weed all these caballerias of potatoes. In general, the crop is doing very well.

There are enterprises, such as Guira de Melena, which I think are in the vanguard. Not only because Melena has good potato farmers and a director who understands potato farming, but also because the weather was good. This also applies to Batabano, where the potatoes are outstanding. Nevertheless, Guira de Melena yields a lot because of the amount planted. You know that the State has 70, 72 caballerias and the private sector has approximately 50. According to the specialists' opinions and from what we are seeing of the first phase, the harvest is the same as in past years.

Now, what is happening? Why are agricultural supplies not at the same level, not even at the same level as last year. But not like other years. Before, we did not have the refrigeration, and potatoes were plentiful at this time. They were mainly distributed directly to the population. From the time we obtained refrigeration, we have tried to obtain experience, and a pleasing result of this year is that we have stored the bulk of the harvest. This year we are on schedule. We are doing it right. The potatoes we are harvesting are good potatoes. The ground is dry. They are very fresh and the bulk should go into storage. Really, we are sending or have sent to the population in these first weeks only potatoes that have been rejected. These are not the best potatoes, which should be stored for the population. Therefore, the potatoes that are rejected and sent are what the population is receiving.

They are good potatoes, but they are not good for storage; besides which, four pounds have been assigned, and since we did not distribute to the people all the potatoes that were to be stored, we can therefore prorate the distribution. There are some areas that have received two pounds, others have received four pounds, and some areas have not received anything. But we think this is a good proportion for the population of both provinces, four pounds per capita. This will be fulfilled and is becoming stable.

Right now, the harvest rate is higher. In the first weeks, we harvested 6,000, 8,000, 10,000 quintals a day. Now we are up to 60,000 quintals or more. We could even harvest up to 80,000 quintals at some point if the weather is good. I do not know if I have answered both your questions.[end recording]

[Farina] In another part, Candido Palmero explained about the current conditions of plantain plantings and prospects for the immediate future.

[Begin Palmero recording] Last year, we did not have fertilizer for plantains, basically potassium; and we saw farms, such as Artemisa, which could only fertilize 13 percent of the plants. In addition, we did not have all the necessary oil to irrigate the plants. Plantains are irrigated by air and earth minijet irrigation systems at least two hours a day. This was not possible. This year, the necessary fertilizer has already been allocated. I can tell you that 100 percent of the plantain plants have already been planted with fertilizer.

So you have an idea, the plants will not show a direct result for six months. Consequently, we are in a complete and total plantain recovery process using this method. They have been better irrigated during these past two months of January and February. They have been fertilized, and in addition to this, I can tell you that 100 percent of the work force is available—this was also very unstable—to give them full care; that is, cut the leaves, do the work required on the shoots, and keep them weeded. The 4 million plantains that are scheduled to be shipped to Havana this year will be grown through this program. We plan on accomplishing and surpassing this program. [end recording]

Antigua and Barbuda

Ruling Labor Party Launches Election Campaign

FL1203204993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2006 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, March 12, CANA—A year before general elections are due, the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) has launched its campaign at a public meeting in the southern village of Jennings. ALP Chairman and Health Minister Adolphous Freeland called on supporters to renew their committment to the party and he recalled the economic prosperity he said was brought by the Vere Bird administration.

"We have officially launched our campaign strongly tonight," Freeland told hundreds of supporters Thursday night. General elections in the twin-island state of Antigua and Barbuda are constitutionally due in March

1994 but both the ALP and the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) have been preparing themselves for a poll.

Several government ministers including Finance Minister Molwyn Joseph, Agriculture Minister Hilroy Humphreys, Public Utilities Minister Robin Yearwood, and Education Minister Senator Bernard Percival also addressed the meeting. Among the notable absentees were Prime Minister Vere Bird Sr., who says he will retire before the next election, Planning Minister Lester Bird, and Information Minister John St. Luce.

An electoral boundaries commission has been appointed by Govenor General Sir Wilfred Jacobs to review the twin-island state's 17 constituencies. The four-member commission is headed by retired civil servant, Samuel Farquhar, and includes former premier and trade unionist, George Walter.

Grenada

PM Brathwaite Declares Intention To Complete Term

FL1303173493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1522 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 13, CANA—Grenada's Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite has declared his intention to complete his five-year term in office.

"Once God gives me health and strength, I shall not voluntarily resign before the term of government in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution," the prime minister said in a recent nationwide address marking the government's third anniversary in power. The prime minister warned his countrymen to ignore attempts to mislead them through rumours and intrigue, saying difficult fiscal and economic problems lay ahead. He took a swipe at "certain sections of the media," which called on the government to resign amind infighting in his administration.

"I was particularly disgusted by the calls for the resignation of the government by the few who would never face the polls, but always claim the right to speak on behalf of the people," he told the nation.

Brathwaite said he was awaiting a police report on attempts to bribe certain politicians to cross the floor recently before exposing those involved in the plot. He added his government was disliked because it was not bowing to corruption. He also attacked "individualism and self fishes" in his government.

"More recently, individualism raised its ugly head by an emotional outburst which was distasteful and objectionable," the prime minister said in reference to the open charges against his government by Health Minister Michael Andrew.

He justified his style of leadership, commenting: "I know I have brought a new style of leadership to the government and some people are uncomfortable with this. I detest dictatorship, I abhor autocracy, and I would never have entered politics if I knew that I had to behave like those who went before me."

Brathwaite, some analysts in St. George's say, left many questions unanswered, including his future in politics, as he did not indicate whether he would run for a third term.

Businessmen Deny Claim of Forming Opposition Party

FL1303174893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1550 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 13, CANA—Some Grenadian businessmen have denied press claims that they are forming a political party to challenge the National Democratic Congress (NDC) of Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite in the next general election, expected in 1995.

The weekly GRENADA TODAY newspaper had carried a report on what it said were plans for a new party. But some of the businessmen it identified as involved said they met to discuss the future of the country—and not to plan a new party—in view of the problems facing the government. The paper had mentioned former Grenada Chamber of Industry and Commerce president, Michael Minors, Hugh Dolland, Richie Cherman, and former People's Revolutionary Government tourism minister Lyden Ramdhanny. Ramdhanny recently told cana his family life would not allow him to get involved in politics. The paper also named the former head of the Caribbean Agricultural, Research and Development Institute, Dr. Kenneth Buckmire.

The newspaper, quoting "well placed sources," said the group would meet again Saturday to discuss the structure of a new political party to contest the next general election because the existing parties are "too fragmented." The NDC has suffered from in- fighting, culminating with the sacking this month of Health Minister Michael Andrew, following his open criticism of government.

Haiti

Dominican Government 'Will Use Force' Against Haitians

FL1203185893 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Dominican Vice Foreign Miniser Fabio Herrera Cabral warns that the Dominican Government will use force to deport Haitian immigrants who cross the border between the two countries. The vice foreign minister asks the OAS to put an end to the economic embargo imposed on Haiti as a means of pressure for the restoration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. The

Dominican vice foreign minister tackled this issue after receiving a document from about 20 nongovernmental organizations in the Dominican Republic warning him that a certain number of Haitian immigrants are preparing to cross the border.

Herrera Cabral rejected a request by other organizatons asking that protection be granted to the Haitian immigrants because it is due to political and economic instability that they are fleeing their country.

Former President Manigat Discusses Crisis

FL1203234193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Excerpts] On 11 March, Former President Leslie Francois Manigat broke his silence after two years. For the first time, he expressed publicly his opinion on the political crisis, including several aspects of this crisis. In speaking about the current situation, Professor Leslie Francois Manigat did not beat around the bush. He stated: It smells bad. During a news conference with a group of Haitian journalists, the former president, ousted by a coup in June 1988, identified three major aspects in the Haitian crisis and recommended solutions, likely, according to him, to favor an solution to the crisis. If not, Prof. Manigat foresees a catastrophe.

Therefore, the former president invites all sectors to agree on a solution at little cost. Analyzing the different proposals for a solution, Manigat wondered about the necessity for a return to power of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide or a solution to the crisis by the international mission in Haiti. He considers the presence of this mission as a form of interference in Haitian affairs. While indicating that he would not systematically refuse international cooperation nonetheless, Prof. Manigat is against this process of making the crisis a worldwide issue that would like to turn Haiti into a guinea pig which is not what this global process should be.

The three solutions proposed for a remedy to the crisis by the former president are: a return to the government ousted in June 1988, his government; a formation of a recovery team with the most credible and the most capable elements; and a holding of new elections to allow the people to express their opinions.

[Begin recording] [Manigat] There are three crises. The first is the crisis of the democratization process which has occurred in many Latin American countries. They have succeeded in their democratization process. Since the fall of the dictatorship, we have attempted to democratize this country but we have not succeeded. Consequently, we are still in a transition that is unending, meaning that we are floundering on a path that has already reached a deadlock. We have not succeeded in forming a democratic society following a dictatorship that lasted 30 years or even made a beginning to a stable democratization. We have been unsuccessful in engaging the first step of democratization that would imply—to give a concrete example—the respect of human life, the acceptance of political parties, and the tolerance of their activities which would offer the minimum for the running of the institutions. This would primarily suggest the possibility of reaching the end of a first presidential term with a regular transfer of power to another president. Then, we would have reached the first phase of democratization. We have not even begun the first step. Therefore, there is a crisis in the democratization process. [passage omitted]

There is the other crisis of the system, or if you wish, a cultural crisis. But I prefer crisis of the system, meaning the crisis of the transfer from a traditional society to a modern one. This crisis dates from the end of the 19th century. It started at the end of the 19th century and continues now. The traditional society is declining while the modern society has not been able to establish itself.

The third crisis is even more serious. We are facing a death threat. This relates to the nature of the country, its physical geography. This is a death threat which might become a psychological disaster. It concerns the Haitian man, threatened by hunger, unemployment, decline, and sickness. It concerns Haitian society which is threatened with breaking and exploding. It concerns Haitian institutions that are all declining. They are all ridiculous now because they have no credibility. There are two presidents in the Audit Court; two Senate presidents; two presidents at the lower chamber; and two presidents of the Republic. That may continue. In other words, the tragedy and the buffoonery no longer differ in the stage that we are experiencing.

Then there is the Haitian crisis. There lies the drama. However, I believe that a democratic solution—I say it in all honesty and in all spontaneity—a democratic solution right now, should be not against Aristide but without Aristide.

[Correspondent Clarence] Mr. Manigat, the international community has engaged itself in a process of reestablishing democracy through the presence of an international mission in the country. You are against the presence of this mission. You have said so, many times. You have also showed that the process of return to democracy could occur not with Aristide, but rather without Aristide. What is today the concrete solution to bring about quickly an end to the Haitian crisis because we must come out of the crisis. The country can no longer continue. You said this a while ago.

[Manigat] The answer is in two points. First, it is well understood—and this must be very clear—that the outcome of the Haitian crisis cannot occur by giving exclusiveness to a determined group or in engaging in a witch hunt. For example, I said so and I wrote it, I say it intentionally and several friends know that, it is necessary to integrate into a solution to the Haitian crisis, the positions that Aristide's partisans had taken in favor of social justice. Without of course the methods [words indistinct] or killing that some were advocating. However, the cause of social justice, which was represented at

a certain time by various lavalas people or numerous Aristide's partisans, must be included, integrated into the political solution that must come about as a solution of general reconciliation. It is clear and I make a point in specifying that. Now, how do we get to such a solution?

This is what I suggest. I say that there are three possible solutions to the Haitian question. These would be some good solutions. There are some other bad ones. I view as bad the social war that is threatening us. I consider as bad, the foreign occupation that could occur based on any incident with those hundreds of commissioners who are going to be spread throughout the national territory, violating the sacred soil of the country. I feel those are bad solutions. However, I think there are three solutions that could be good. I feel there are two that are best and the third one that we must settle for because of the Haitian situation. [passage omitted]

Some are going to think that I favor the first solution because I am involved. There is a deadlock in Haitian politics that concerns the return or not of Father Aristide. In other words, Aristide's name is used in the solution to the Haitian crisis as the watershed, as such, of Haitian political life. I say no. It is not necessary that we reach such extremes. It is necessary to look at the principles. What is the principle behind the OAS principle despite the injustice of its decisions. It is a principle of political legitimacy that consists of reestablishing to power a president constitutionally elected and ousted by the Army. There is the principle. [Words indistinct]. I say that since there is a major debate, a great problem, a big controversy regarding Aristide, and this explains that [words indistinct], otherwise we would have already found a solution. Why not take the principle that would satisfy the international community and apply it to the first case of the downfall of a government constitutionally elected and ousted by the Army.

[Clarence] You mean the return to Manigat.

[Manigat] On 19 June 1988. This solution for me [words indistinct] has not been adopted. I say that it has not been adopted. The second solution is close to the first one, except that it is not personalized from the start. We have a very serious crisis. The one that I explained to you a while ago. What did France do in 1958 when facing the crisis in Algeria and the decline of the Fourth Republic with its failing institutions? France had recourse in General de Gaulle. I say that if the Haitian people were aware of the seriousness of the current crisis, we could have recourse, as France in 1958, to the man who in Haiti is best qualified to assure, on behalf of the entire community reconciled, the necessity to save this country with a team of men [word indistinct].

Because division is triumphing, because sector ambitions are triumphing, it is necessary to have recourse to the people so that they can choose. Therefore, it is necessary to hold elections. Of course, that is where we are very alert. We are saying that it is necessary, if they really want to democratize this country, it is necessary to hold serious elections during which the real popular will can be expressed freely and this will can be respected. [end recording]

Ministers Discuss Fuel, Disaster Aid, Observer Mission

FL1203185393 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The electricity and blackout problem was discussed at the Council of Ministers meeting on 10 March. The public works [transport, and communications] minister sent a communique to the council to explain the difficulties of Electricity of Haiti [EDH] in providing electricity to the metropolitan area. The main cause of these difficulties is the fact that gas oil, which is necessary for the functioning of the equipment, does not enter Haiti very regularly. They said they are considering taking measures to allow the EDH to increase its stocking capacity so it can offer proper services to all its customers in the metropolitan area.

The second issue which was discussed at the Council of Ministers meeting was the government release of 5.4 million gourdes to victims of the Neptune boat catastrophe. On the basis of a report, a copy of which was previously given to the members of the council, the planning minister sent a communication on the wreck, citing the main principal causes as improper stowage, an excess of passengers, and a poorly trained crew. He pointed out that competent institutions, especially the Haitian Navy, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the Disaster Prevention and Relief Organization, and the Red Cross hastened to help those who were dying in the sea. Once informed of this wreck, the U.S. Government sent Coast Guard units to reinforce the search and assistance operations. The ministers said that government deserves to be thanked and congratulated for the assistance it brought to those who were dying in the sea.

Many measures, including a detailed report that is available at the Ministry of Planning, were decided. One of the measures was that an amount of nearly 5.4 million gourdes will be put at the disposal of the victims. An amount of 400,000 gourdes of that money will be used as emergency aid by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and the remaining 5 million gourdes will be used through the program of grievances for the financing of specific projects.

Another point discussed by the council of ministers was the council's wait for a detailed communication from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning the status of the OAS/UN civilian mission file. It was noted on that day that the mission had 91 members, including 77 from the OAS, and 14 from the United Nations. The minister explained the relationship between his ministry and the mission, through the liaison unit that was created at the ministry to manage this situation of the OAS and UN civilian mission in Haiti. They also discussed... [pauses] Several ministers brought up the necessity of managing the many documents in this file, the civilian mission file. Again the council marked the determination of the government to observe and enforce both the letter and the spirit of the terms of reference to which they agreed with the special envoy of the UN and OAS Secretary General Dante Caputo.

Jamaica

Shooting Incident Mars Nomination Day 12 Mar

FL1303003793 Bridgetown CANA in English 2257 GMT 12 Mar 93

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 12, CANA—Candidates for Jamaica's 30 March general election filed their nomination papers Friday, but the general, peaceful exercise was marred by a few skirmishes that left at least two persons shot and injured and a policeman stabbed. The governing People's National Party (PNP) said it was its supporters who were injured near the North Central St. Andrew Constituency office of its candidate, Karl Samuda. Spokesmen for the PNP and the opposition Jamaica Labour Party [JLP] told CANA that the nomination exercise passed relatively smoothly although all reports were not in by Friday evening.

"We had no problems," said PNP spokesman, George Lee. "Everything went well."

Said the JLP's Hector Wynter: "It all went smoothly. Had anything gone wrong we would have heard by now."

The PNP and the JLP fielded candidates for all 60 constituencies. The miniscule republican party had announced plans to field at least 30 candidates but by late Friday the electoral office could confirm only one nomination—that of the party's leader Denzil Taylor in East Kingston and Port Royal, held until a year ago by retired PNP President and Prime Minister Michael Manley.

Director of elections, Noel Lee, said that by Friday evening his field staff had reported nominations by two independents—Joan Gordon-Webley in East Rural St. Andrew and Marlene Brown in West St. Cathrine. Gordon-webley, held the seat for the JLP between 1980 and 1989 but fell out of grace with party leader Edward Seaga during the bitter quarrels in the JLP over his leadership style.

While party officials and police were happy that the actual nominations passed without widespread disturbances the PNP expressed concern over the shooting incident. The party said it had called on its supporters for calm and to refrain from retaliation. However, Samuda and his JLP opponent, Tom Tavares-Finson, appeared to blame each others supporters for the fracas.

Samuda said that Tavares-Finson, on his way from filing his nomination papers, led his supporters past the PNP office and shots were fired, injuring the two persons, including one who was standing at the gate with Samuda's wife. Samuda is a former JLP member who retained the seat in 1989 for that party. But he was among the so- called gang-of-five whose challenge of Seaga's leadership style led to serious rents in the JLP.

Tavares-Finson claimed that his supporters, in a jovial and friendly mood, had passed Samuda's office when the tail of the march was attacked with stones and bottles and "shots were fired." The circumstances under which the policeman was injured remained unclear. Both men said they were willing to meet each other to maintain calm in the constituency.

Law Passed To Strengthen Competition, Protect Consumers

FL1303152593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1407 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, March 13, CANA—Jamaica now has in place a fair competition law aimed at deepening competition among businesses here and providing increased protection for consumers. The bill was the last piece of legislation approved by the House of Representatives before it was dissolved Tuesday to pave the way for general elections at monthend. The law will, among other things, make price fixing illegal and allow persons to challenge perceived unfair competitive advantages practiced by companies. Firms will also have to avoid misleading advertising and companies considered to have a "dominant position" in the market can be challenged.

Trinidad and Tobago

Office Established To Coordinate Drug Interdiction

FL1203200393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1648 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, March 12, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago has underlined the importance of hemispheric co-operation in tackling the illegal drug business.

"Our respect for the rule of law and our understanding of the transnational nature of the illicit traffic in drugs, oblige us to join with our neighbours in the hemisphere in combatting this common enemy," Lance Selman, principal delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, said Wednesday.

His comments came at the 23rd regular session of the Inter- American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) meeting here this week.

Selman outlined a strategy by his government to improve its capacity to reduce demand, interdict illicit drugs, and prevent the laundering of the ill-gotten profits of the drug trade.

An Office of Strategic Services had been established within Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of National Security, Selman reported, to develop and coordinate an interdiction strategy and establish cooperative ties with counterparts in other countries.

Moreover, he continued, his government was conducting a "major reform and reorganisation" of its customs department and police service, which would include the formation of a newly-organised crime and narcotics unit.

Trinidad and Tobago will strengthen its comprehensive domestic counter-narcotics programme this year, Selman said, through legislation now being prepared for presentation to Parliament.

Selman stated that his government also is committed to more intense multilateral cooperation, noting that Trinidad and Tobago's anti-money laundering programme had been influenced by CICAD's model regulations in this area.

He said Trinidad and Tobago had offered to host a regional secretariat to accelerate implementation of anti-money laundering programmes in the Caribbean. As recently as last week, Selman noted, Trinidad and Tobago hosted a money laundering symposium attended by representatives of Barbados, France, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique and St. Lucia.

In May, Trinidad and Tobago would host CICAD's fourth multinational training seminar on CICAD's model regulations on the control of precursor chemicals essential to the production of drugs.

Bahamian representative Paulette Bethel said in spite of the best efforts of all the concerned countries, the drug problems persisted, and, in some cases imperiled "the very existence of states".

Bethel reaffirmed the continuing commitment of the Government of the Bahamas to the "struggle against drug abuse, drug trafficking, and money laundering."

She cited a joint Bahamas-U.S. Drug Interdiction Programme, a programme to train police and defense forces, increased attention to drug demand reduction in schools and the community at large, vigorous prosecution of drug dealers, rehabilitation efforts, and improved cooperation with other countries through mutual legal assistance agreements.

"In the area of money laundering, the Bahamas remains among the cleanest and safest banking systems in the world, thanks to its stiff anti-money laundering legislation, which has been in place since 1987," Bethel reported.

CICAD's objective is the elimination of illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse by targeting production, manufacture, transportation, distribution, marketing and laundering of profits related to the drug trade. The commission meets at least twice annually to review its ongoing anti-drug programmes throughout the hemisphere.

Salinas Stresses Importance of NAFTA Parallel Agreements

PA1203230393 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by Patricia Gutierrez]

[Text] Mexico will base its negotiation of the so-called North American Free Trade Agreement [NAFTA] parallel agreements on three basic principles: rejection of protectionism, congruity with the trilateral treaty, and respect for sovereignty. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said this during the speech with which he opened the 62d National Assembly of the Mexican Employers Confederation [Coparmex].

[Begin Salinas recording] NAFTA is on the agenda. Next week, as stated in previous announcements, we will begin to discuss so-called parallel issues, the environment and labor affairs, which are the sovereign responsibility of each nation. Mexico has a serious interest in these talks because, as I said from the outset of the NAFTA negotiations, we want them to generate a larger number of better paying jobs in keeping with our laws and in an ecologically cleaner environment, which is the responsibility of every Mexican.

The negotiating group will approach this meeting with three clearly established principles: First, that the agreements be compatible with the already completed trilateral NAFTA. Second, the agreements reached should not be used as protectionist mechanisms; in other words, they must make economic sense. Third, the agreements must be totally respectful of each nation's sovereignty. [end recording]

Salinas urged the businessmen to do their social duty so that, with the workers and government, they can strengthen the changes made over the past few years, consolidate the [word indistinct] of competitiveness, and allow the benefits of these efforts to reach the entire population.

In his speech, Coparmex's outgoing President Hector Larios Santillan proposed a move toward a market economy model with social responsibility.

Pemex Releases Production, Revenue Figures

PA1403192893 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0201 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The 1992 exports of petrochemical products from subsidiaries of Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) yielded $204 million in revenues by selling 1.238 million tons in the international market.

A communique issued by Pemex includes figures which prove the Mexican economy was strong in 1992 by sponsoring the foreign trade of products with a higher value added tax and the opening of new competitive markets based on quality and price.

According to preliminary figures, Pemex subsidiaries produced greater volumes of petrochemical products from their industrial centers in 1992, thus increasing exports of 10 important raw petrochemical materials whose sales yielded $162.1 million in revenues for Mexico.

Pemex reported that as a result of the industrial infrastructure's modernization, there was an increase in the production of acrylonitrile, ammonia, benzene, ethylene, cyclohexane, polypropylene, high density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, diethyleneglycol, and polyethylene wax.

Referring to pethochemical products like acrylonitrile, cyclohexane, and polypropylene, Pemex said there was a combined surplus production of 14,575 tons, which were sold abroad and yielded a profit of $6.4 million.

Pemex confirmed 7,407 tons of polyethylene wax and diethyleneglycol were exported, which yielded nearly $2 million in revenues.

Pemex also revealed 2.677 million tons of ammonia were produced; adding 770,638 tons were sold on the foreign market, which brought $67.9 million for the country.

The parastate organization said ethylene was one of the leading exports, because 160,440 tons were sold abroad and yielded $39.2 million in revenues.

Pemex said high density polyethylene and low density polyethylene reached a combined production of 575,000 tons; adding 71,935 tons were sent abroad and this represented $35 million in revenues.

Government Looks Forward to Conclusion of Uruguay Round

PA1203225293 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Dr. Herminio Blanco, assistant secretary of commerce for international commercial negotiations, was among the participants in the 10th National Economy Congress. Blanco discussed the importance for the world and for Mexico of the conclusion of the so-called Uruguay Round of the GATT.

[Begin Blanco recording] According to certain estimates, the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round could mean an increase of $200 billion in the sale of goods and services, following an adjustment period. For Mexico, it means recognition of and reciprocity for our openness. It means that we will have better rules with which to trade with the rest of the world. [end recording]

Blanco asserted that the Uruguay Round will improve the rules governing trade with the rest of the world and eliminate the unilateral protectionist measures used by certain countries.

Costa Rica

Further Reportage on Nicaraguan Embassy Takeover

Nicaraguan Delegation To Depart

PA1203202393 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1905 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by Gerardo Cruz from the Security Ministry]

[Text] Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendienta announced a few minutes ago that the Nicaraguan Government delegation is returning to its country, since it did not find a way to obtain the release of the Nicaraguan Embassy hostages. Mendieta added that the Nicaraguan Government had done its job, and now it leaves the matter in Costa Rican hands. The Costa Rican Government can call the members of the delegation to try to find a solution. Luis Fishman, Costa Rican Government and public security minister, also stated that he will not be involved in the negotiations, that the Crisis Commission has been dissolved, and that he is returning to his normal functions, as is Presidency Minister Rolando Lacle. Here is an excerpt of the remarks made by Government Minister Mendieta while announcing that he and Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais were leaving because they did not find a solution to the Embassy takeover.

[Begin Mendieta recording] I have talked with Minister Fishman. [Words indistinct] Minister Lacle has basically resumed his duties as minister [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Mendieta announced he and Deputy Foreign Minister Pallais are returning to their country, since there is no way to find a solution to the Embassy takeover. The Nicaraguan official added that Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, the leader of the Embassy takeover, is a man who seeks publicity and who has taken advantage of the Costa Rican people because he has poked fun at them. The Nicaraguan official added they are not going to take Urbina's intransigent stance any longer. For that reason, they will be going this afternoon to the Juan Santamaria Airport to take an airplane back to their country. Minister Fishman announced the Crisis Commission was dissolved. Fishman added that neither he, Lacle, nor Deputy Foreign Minister Hernan Castro will continue to be a part of the Crisis Commission. They are immediately resuming their duties in their respective offices. Whatever happens at the Embassy will depend upon Urbina Lara, who now has no negotiators or Commission trying to resolve the problem.

Cardinal Obando y Bravo To Leave

PA1203171393 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[News conference with Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo by unidentified reporter in San Jose—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Obando y Bravo]... at the embassy. Inside it I understand. They do not want this condition. They said that is an untimely proposal. He told me he did not trust the honorable Nicaraguan Government delegation because it had failed to honor its words. This is the state of things. I will pray to God to illuminate minds and hearts to ensure this problem will be settled as soon as possible. I hope the hostages and sick people will recover their freedom soon and that there will be a solution in favor of everyone.

I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm my thanks to the Costa Rican Government for its kindness during our stay here. I also thank the Nicaraguan Government for trusting us and giving us the opportunity to help. I also thank Mr. Urbina Lara for trusting us. I think this situation will be prolonged. I think this problem will be settled, but will require more time. In view of my pastoral duties in Nicaragua [three-second break in reception] I will be leaving, but hope time and God will help solve this problem.

[Reporter] When will you be leaving?

[Obando y Bravo] God willing, on 12 March.

[Reporter] At what time?

[Obando y Bravo] I have yet to decide. I will say good-bye at this time to the Costa Rican Government officials who have assisted us. I hope that the hostages will be freed. I think the time factor will help.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Obando y Bravo] I think the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican Governments and Commander Urbina Lara will find a solution. Perhaps we should give them more time.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Obando y Bravo] No, he said he is willing to meet with the Nicaraguan delegation, with Nicaraguan Government Minister Mendieta and Deputy Foreign Minister Pallais. I understand, however, he wants this meeting to take place inside the embassy. I proposed a meeting at the doorsteps, but he said that is an (?untimely) proposal. Thank you very much.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Obando y Bravo] The Nicaraguan Government has proposed the Archiepiscopal in Curia or an embassy but this proposal was rejected. He once again insisted he wants this meeting....[pauses] I understand he already has the room where it will take place, but not at the doorsteps. He told me if this problem is not settled, I will expect a commando unit to come to face me. I do not want it to be a Costa Rican command unit, because (?I wish to face) a Nicaraguan commando unit. Thank you very much.

Urbina Said To Reject Dialogue Offers

PA1203172993 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1549 GMT 12 Mar 93

[News conference with Nicaraguan Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta by unidentified reporter outside the Government and Public Security Ministry in San Jose—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Mendieta]... Costa Rican and international public opinion the fact that we held a very satisfactory meeting on 12 March with the Costa Rican Government crisis committee and with the mediator, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo. We have cleared up some slight disagreements regarding some mechanisms. We have noted that our positions are very similar. We have cleared up all these things based on the need to contribute to the solution of this situation once and for all. We proceeded to contact Mr. Urbina Lara through [Costa Rican Government and Public Security] Minister Fishman. The cardinal contacted Urbina Lara to inform him the Nicaragua Government agreed to go immediately to the door of the embassy. The Costa Rican Government made the arrangements to set up a negotiating table at that location. We believed everything was ready. Mr. Urbina Lara categorically rejected this possibility. He told the cardinal this was out of place and that he hoped a Nicaraguan commando unit will not take him by force because he would be waiting for it. In other words, he maintained an attitude that undoubtedly does not contribute to the climate we are trying to create. We are trying to promote, through the mediation of Cardinal Obando y Bravo, a climate of harmony and of shared responsibility with the Costa Rican Government. This reaffirms my view that Mr. Urbina Lara is constantly changing his attitude. He is unpredictable. With the desire to find a prompt solution to this problem, we have even accepted the risk of going to the site where he is holding hostages and where he is armed with bombs and gasoline. Nevertheless, we see Mr. Urbina is making the possibility of resolving this problem even more remote. I demand that Mr. Urbina resolve this situation. I demand that he release all the hostages or at least the people who are ill. We know there are ill people in the embassy because we have had to send medicines to them. He must make an important gesture and not just a gesture to obtain publicity.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] negotiation?

[Mendieta] We are here at the disposal of the Costa Rican Government to cooperate as best possible. I repeat, we have contributed our best effort. I want to express recognition of the attitude of the crisis committee, particularly Minister Fishman, Presidency Minister Lacle, and the deputy foreign minister, who at all times have been trying to reconcile positions. This attitude reflects the Costa Rican people's democratic spirit and their opinion that the solution must be achieved through dialogue. I want to say that we are fully aware that in our country we are also moving on that path and that political opportunities exist in our country. Actions such as this one should not take place in a country like Costa Rica, especially after all that Costa Rica has contributed to peace in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] does not accept your position, what will happen?

[Mendieta] Well, we will have to meet with the crisis committee again to evaluate this situation and see if we can find other mechanisms to resolve this situation. I think the doors are being closed. We have done much more than any government would have done in these circumstances. It has even offered to have two high-ranking government officials go to the embassy in completely unequal conditions. He has a gun in his hand and we are unarmed. If he has been incapable of accepting the assurances provided by this friendly government and people and the assurances provided by the cardinal to talk with us seriously at a neutral point such as the archbishop's office, the Venezuelan embassy, or any other embassy which offers its site, then this shows Mr. Urbina Lara is not willing to hold a dialogue to resolve this problem and that perhaps he only wants to sell his book, which is in the [word indistinct] bookstore.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Mendieta] We will talk again with our Costa Rican counterparts and with the crisis committee to find a solution to this problem, which is increasingly moving outside the Nicaraguan Government's hands.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Mendieta] I will hold a news conference as soon as I consult with my government. We will have more information. I will have to consult with my government because I definitely think my work here has been exhausted.

Yolaina Commando Calls for Negotiations

PA1203165193 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1609 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Communique No. 8 issued by the Yolaina Commando unit at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 12 March—live]

[Text] 1. Few minutes ago [words indistinct] His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to inform him that [words indistinct] Government of Nicaragua [words indistinct] not to enter the embassy grounds, but to hold negotiations outside of the embassy.
2. We believe this position represents yet another pretext by Nicaraguan Government officials to continue [words indistinct] the beginning of the negotiations.
3. We believe this attitude clearly reveals that the Nicaraguan Government representatives do not carry a specific proposal and [words indistinct] commit the Costa Rican Government as a main player in this conflict.
4. We again urge Nicaraguan Government representatives to appear at the embassy to begin the negotiations immediately so they can fulfill their promises made

public on 11 March. To this effect, we have an embassy reception room ready, which offers the conditions to hold serious talks.
5. We swear before [words indistinct] the international community and Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo that we will respect the physical integrity of the Nicaraguan Government officials.

[Issued] San Jose, 12 March 1993.
[Signed] Yolaina Commando

Commando Requests Cardinal's Presence

PA1203172493 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1632 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Communique No. 9 issued by the Yolaina Commando at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose on 12 March—live]

[Text] Attention friends of the national and international media; attention people of Costa Rica; attention international community. The following is our [one-second break in reception] communique No. 9:

The [one-second break in reception] Commando informs the public:

We, through our only means of communication, call on Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo to come to the Nicaraguan Embassy as soon as possible time so that he can personally verify the conditions of the room located next to the embassy lobby. We believe that this room meets all conditions for the negotiations.

In addition, we believe that the cardinal's presence is necessary so he can verify the physical and emotional condition of the hostages. They have expressed their desire to see Cardinal Obando y Bravo and to receive the necessary spiritual force needed in these cases.

[issued] San Jose, 12 May 1993.
[signed] Yolaina Commando.

Yolaina Issues New Communique, Wants Dialogue

PA1403001493 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2144 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] San Jose, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—On 13 March, the anti-Sandinist commando, which is holding 16 hostages at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose, issued a vehement appeal to the Nicaraguan Government, urging it to start another negotiation.

The communique, read by Nicaraguan Ambassador Alfonso Robelo, one of hostages being held by the self-styled "Yolaina Commando," asked Violeta Chamorro's Administration "not to conclude efforts, and to solve the difficult situation as quickly as possible through dialogue."

The ambassador's voice sounded firm. It was heard from a very distorted recording, broadcasted by sound equipment, which the police have yet to identify.

The kidnappers and their hostages are still inside the embassy, located in a downtown area of the Costa Rican capital that is cordoned off by police. Dozens of journalists maintain a permanent watch in front of the embassy compound.

The "Yolaina Commando" communique urged the Nicaraguan Government to join efforts with the Costa Rican Government to reach a "satisfactory solution" to the crisis as soon as possible.

The four kidnappers insisted on the need to carry out political changes in Nicaragua. They said the Nicaraguan Government must "rectify all that which precludes a national agreement to guarantee peace and stability."

They also stated that they advocate a "strong rule of the law that respects the will of the people who elected Chamorro as Nicaragua's constitutional president."

The communique was issued at 1500 (2100 GMT), following the end of the sixth day since the seizure of the embassy began. On 11 March, two Costa Ricans and seven Nicaraguan women were released. Up until that time, 25 hostages had been held captive at the embassy.

Uncertainty has prevailed concerning the outcome of the crisis, after two Nicaraguan ministers returned to Nicaragua on 12 March. The two ministers had been scheduled to negotiate with the kidnappers. Managua Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo was to act as mediator.

The Nicaraguan delegation departed after failing to reach an agreement on the exact location where the negotiations would be held.

The kidnappers demanded that the ministers enter the embassy to talk. They released nine hostages as a condition for the meeting. The Nicaraguan officials, however, refused to go beyond the main entrance.

Yolaina Issues Request to Clinton

PA1403234093 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2220 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] San Jose, 14 Mar (ACAN-EFE)— On 14 March, the Yolaina Commando, which has held 16 hostages at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose for one week, asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to freeze aid to Nicaragua and to make its release "contingent" upon an "in-depth" human rights study.

A communique sent by fax to ACAN-EFE and signed by Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, leader of the four kidnappers, issued a similar request to Canada and to the EC.

The message from the four anti-Sandinists, who seized the embassy and 25 people on 8 March, represents the first communication received from the commando since 12 March, when negotiations with the Nicaraguan Government were suspended.

Alfonso Robelo, the kidnapped ambassador, sent a fax to ACAN-EFE on 13 March, asking the Nicaraguan authorities to seek a quick negotiated solution to the embassy crisis.

Nicaraguan Ambassador Issues Declaration

PA1403024993 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0113 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] San Jose, 13 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—On 13 March, Alfonso Robelo, the Nicaraguan ambassador who has been held hostage by an Yolaina commando group at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose with 15 other people, denied reports that the action is a self-kidnapping.

Robelo sent a communique by fax to the ACAN-EFE office in San Jose stating that the reports about self-kidnapping, spread by Sandinist media in Managua, are "absolutely false, are mere speculation," and he "categorically" rejected them.

"All those who know me are aware that my principles render me incapable of participating, sponsoring, or accepting an action of this nature," he said.

The document is personally signed by Robelo and it is similar to a communique that was read by the ambassador and broadcast hours ago from a tape recorder placed on a windowsill of the embassy. Distortion and noises in the recording rendered it indistinct.

Robelo's communique caused surprise because it was believed the embassy had no telephone communication since 10 March, when the phone lines were cut. A phone line is re-established only when the Costa Rican authorities want to contact the kidnappers.

An unidentified person had called ACAN-EFE and had asked for its fax number shortly before the communique was received.

Robelo stated in his communique that, due to his principles, he "strongly condemns any extreme action like this, regardless of who is involved."

"Given this situation, and after meditating many hours, I am convinced that all the good people of Nicaragua must reflect and rectify all that which prevents a genuine national agreement that guarantees peace and stability in our homeland."

He added: "All this must be done within a strong rule of the law and with respect for the will of the people who elected Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro as president of Nicaragua."

"I issue a vehement appeal to the Nicaraguan Government, urging it not to conclude the efforts, and to solve this difficult situation as quickly as possible through dialogue," he emphasized.

"Likewise, I issue an appeal to the Costa Rican Government and my esteemed colleagues in the diplomatic corps, urging them to join efforts and help achieve a satisfactory solution to the current crisis as quickly as possible," the ambassador said.

Robelo thanks the group of kidnappers, the self-styled "Yolaina Commando," for "authorizing me to send this declaration, which was issued of my own free will."

The negotiations to vacate the embassy were disrupted on 12 March when the two Nicaraguan ministers acting as negotiators returned to their country, after failing to reach an agreement on the location to hold the negotiations.

The kidnappers wanted to hold the dialogue within the embassy. Accordingly, they agreed to liberate on 11 March, 9 of the 25 hostages they had been holding since 8 March. But the Nicaraguan ministers refused to go beyond the diplomatic mission's main entrance.

El Salvador

Truth Commission Accuses Ponce of Jesuits' Murder

PA1503045293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0340 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] United Nations, 15 Mar (EFE)—On the night of 15 December 1989, according to a report issued by the Truth Commission, Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce (currently a general) ordered Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides to murder Jesuit priest Ignacio Ellacuria and "to leave no witnesses."

"Therefore, a decision was adopted to use an Atlacatl Battalion unit, which had been sent to search the priests' residence two days earlier," states that the report will be officially delivered to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on 15 March.

Ponce, who was later promoted to general and who resigned from the post of defense minister on 12 March, gave the order "in the presence of and with the support of Gen. Juan Rafael Bustillo, Gen. Orlando Zepeda (who was a colonel at the time), Col. Inocente Orlando Montano, and Col. Francisco Elena Fuentes," states the report.

"Subsequently, all these officers and others, including Gen. Gilberto Rubio Rubio—who knew about what had happened—adopted measures to hide the incident," explains the report which was prepared over the past six months by an international commission.

"The assassination operation was organized by former Major Carlos Camilo Hernandez Barahona and carried out by a group of Atlacatl Battalion soldiers led by Lieutenant Jose Ricardo Espinoza Guerra and Second Lieutenant Yussy Rene Mendoza Vallecillos," states the report.

Most of these nine officers were tried for murder, including Col. Benavides Moreno, who was accused of giving the order to assasssinate Ignacio Ellacuria, five other Jesuits, the cook, and her 16-year-old daughter on 16 November 1989 at the Central American University.

Col. Benavides Moreno was sentenced to 30 years for participating in all the assassinations. Mendoza Vallecillos received the same sentence for the assassination of Celina Mariceth Ramos, the young woman. They are the only ones in prison even though others received lesser sentences.

"The Truth Commission considers it unfair that Col. Benavides Moreno and Lt. Mendoza Vallecillos are in prison while those who planned the assassinations, and whoever gave the order to carry out the assassination, are still free," states the report.

Identifies Human Rights Violators

PA1503054093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0450 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Report by correspondent Ricardo Alday]

[Text] New York, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX)—On 14 March, the Truth Commission identified the culprits of some of the worst human rights violations perpetrated during El Salvador's civil war. The Truth Commission reviewed the 12 most painful years of El Salvador's recent history.

The report, which summarizes the Truth Commission's conclusions, represents a challenge for the peace process currently underway in El Salvador. It represents a challenge for the country's near future, given that the first peaceful general elections in almost two decades will be held next year.

The Salvadoran Government and Army are identified as responsible for most of the human rights violations that took place during a struggle, which cost the lives of more than 78,000 persons between January 1980 and July 1993.

The Truth Commission's recommendations are not legal or mandatory, yet they are clear and concise in many of the cases. The recommendations favor reconciliation and forgiveness.

"No matter how bitter it may be, the Truth must—in some cases—recognize that what happened in El Salvador represents the first essential step to guarantee that those things will not happen again," states the report, which will be issued on 15 March.

The Truth Commission found six high-ranking military commanders of the Salvadoran Army guilty of the murder of six Jesuits, including four priests, in December 1989. The Truth Commission recommended their definite separation from the Armed Forces.

It also recommended that several leaders of the former rebel organization, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), be banned from public office for 10 years and from any security post for life, for their participation in the murder of mayors between 1985 and 1988.

Defense Minister Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce and Vice Minister Gen. Orlando Zepeda, as well as four other military officers, were accused of carrying out and covering up the Jesuits' death.

The following were also accused: Former Air Force Commander Gen. Juan Rafael Bustillo, Gen. Inocente Orlando Montano, Col. Francisco Elena Fuentes, and Col. Oscar Alberto Leon Linares.

The Truth Commission linked FMLN leaders Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Joaquin Villalobos, Jorge Melendez, Ana Sonia Medina, Marisol Galindo, and Mercedes del Carmen Letona to the deaths of several mayors.

The results of over six months of investigations were delivered to government and FMLN representatives and will be made public at a general ceremony scheduled early on 15 March at UN headquarters.

The Truth Commission also recommends the permanent dismissal from the Armed Forces of four officers linked to the deaths of Agrarian Reform advisers. The individuals implicated are Captain Alvaro Saravia, an officer whose surname is Avila, Lieutenant Rodolfo Isidro Lopez Sibrian, and one unidentified person.

The Truth Commission concluded that the founder of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, the late Major Roberto D'Abuisson, masterminded the murder of San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero in 1980.

The late Colonel Domingo Monterrosa was named as the person mainly responsible for the Mozote massacre in 1980, in which hundreds of peasants were killed.

Monterrosa headed the Atlacatl Battalion which carried out the massacre. The people who are mainly responsible for the massacre are active Colonel Jesus Caceres Cabrera and Major Jose Armando Azmitia Melara.

The Peoples Revolutionary Army, one of the armed organizations that comprised the former FMLN guerrilla organization, was named as being indirectly responsible for the murder of Herbert Anaya, head of the nongovernment Human Rights Commission of El Salvador.

For over six months the Truth Commission examined reports of human rights violations in El Salvador between January 1980 and July 1992 and listened to over 2,000 sources.

The commission was headed by former Colombian President Belisario Betancur and included former Venezuelan Foreign Minister Reinaldo Figueiredo and Thomas Burgenthal, former director of the Inter-American Court of Justice.

Cristiani Refuses To Comment on Ponce's Resignation

PA1203201093 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1822 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by Guillermo Rivera]

[Text] Good afternoon. The president has referred to the report by the Truth Commission, which was drafted by a commission of three people, less than 72 hours before

the report is disclosed. Cristiani stated that the government has spoken to secretary generals of the political parties represented at the Assembly to avoid confrontation, criticism, or recriminations.

The president also asserted there are no signs violent actions will occur after the publication of the Truth Commission report.

[Begin Cristiani recording] We have not detected any specific demonstrations. We remain alert to try to avoid violent situations. If they occur, however, we will control and put down individuals who try to use violence for personal purposes or to affect the peace process. No activities have been scheduled for that date.

I think this report is aimed at seeking the truth in order to achieve reconciliation. [end recording]

The president explained it will be necessary to evaluate the measures recommended by the Truth Commission before putting them to work. In addition, he said the time frame for implementing these measures will be carefully analyzed. To do this, society must focus on reconciliation to avoid past recriminations.

Referring to the issue of amnesty, Cristiani reiterated that first it will be necessary to know the results of the Truth Commission report. When questioned on Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce's resignation announced on the morning of 12 March, the president refused to comment, stating that he wanted to hear the complete statements by Gen. Ponce.

Cristiani admitted that he had information Gen. Ponce was going to tender his resignation.

Meanwhile, when questioned on dissatisfaction regarding the Truth Commission report, Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez said that those who are guilty of something should be concerned. He confirmed his transfer to the Republic of Argentina, where he will serve as ambassador.

These statements were made during the inauguration of the Thermal Central Plant in Acajutla, which will increase its capacity of energy generation.

Cristiani on Truth Commission Report

PA1503034893 San Salvador Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0202 GMT 15 Mar 93

["Special message from President Alfredo Cristiani to the Salvadoran people;" place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens, the Truth Commission's report will be issued on 15 March at the UN headquarters in New York. The event compels us to address you and share some reflections that we consider necessary at this point within the peace process. We must all react and act with a special sense of maturity as citizens with patriotic spirit.

Since the beginning of our term, we visualized the mandate granted to us by the Salvadoran people as an effort to achieve true peace within our society. This has permitted the permanent reunification of the Salvadoran family and the reconciliation of souls after the cruel and bloody struggle that we withstood for over a decade.

It is perhaps opportune, now more than ever, to recall that when we assumed, with sincere respect and humility, the post of president of the republic, we said with full and honest conviction that we did not consider ourselves to be anyone's enemy. Perhaps on that occasion those words sounded like a beautiful, timely phrase given the circumstances. We want to reassure you, Salvadoran brothers, that it was not a simple phrase. Our hearts and minds cannot accept the concept of enemy, they can only accept the concept of adversary. The concept of friend obviously has a preferential place.

We have always wanted to help people understand the meaning of solidarity and fraternity, which the Salvadorans need so much following the prolonged war that devastated the very core of our nation. The war left our staunch faith in destiny intact; our trust in the generous and creative energy of the noble nation we belong to; and our adherence to the values of peace, progress, and liberty, for which so many good Salvadorans sacrificed even their lives.

The successful conclusion of a war like ours demanded a great effort from everyone to overcome old confrontations and violent schemes. When violence overcomes a country it quickly develops into various forms that are frequently uncontrollable. Violence also creates a greater aberration, meaning the customary use of violence and the adaptation of its procedures, and the justification of barbaric actions. The war had causes and it has consequences. The war had planners, participants, and victims.

Given our conviction that we were morally, politically, and historically duty bound to end the war, to advance toward the future rather than to return to the past or become bogged down in the present, we sought to achieve a solution in which there were no losers or winners. There would only be an ultimate winner, the noble, oft sacrificed, and courageous people of El Salvador. They are now giving the world a beautiful lesson on maturity, which surprises many. We fully understand it because we know the reserves of generosity, stoicism, and intelligence our people have. The final solution to the war is not planned to satisfy anyone's personal goals or interests.

It is a solution, which despite all the problems it entails, is attempting to be permanent and stable or, in other words, peaceful and democratic. This demands seriousness and responsibility on the part of all sectors. It also demands constructive sacrifices that will increasingly open the horizons of national life to the paths of political stability, sustained development, general progress, and the full expression of the creative energies that exist within our society.

The Truth Commission's report should be viewed and treated as a means of building toward the future. Suffering is always enlightening. Only primitive beings do not learn from suffering. Throughout this lengthy period, the Salvadoran people have matured to the point of being totally capable of understanding and assimilating the harsh and bitter lessons of our history.

That report, with the limitations it may contain, is part of our history. But more importantly, it should aim to the future. It should contain recommendations to prevent a repetition of the tragic fratricidal rift.

I must tell the country at this time that the moment has come to forgive each other for any damage done. This does not go against anyone's convictions or principles. Now, more than ever, the principles and ideas that have guided and inspired us throughout our lives are firm in our minds. These principles and ideas will remain with us throughout our time on this earth. I repeat, however, in a respectful and brotherly manner, that the time has come to forgive, for each of us to say the Lord's Prayer with true conviction, to ask God to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Our Lord and the history in which his plan is unfolding, is giving the Salvadoran people an extraordinary opportunity, which few people have had. It is an opportunity to reconcile our differences to live in peace. By granting us peace, God has recognized in the Salvadoran people the convictions of men of good will. This good will is what I am now asking all my dear fellow Salvadorans to put into practice.

We will turn a painful page in our history. For my part, I want to contribute to making the report and the entire process bear the fruit of reunification for which it was conceived, by supporting an immediate, general, and total amnesty that will end the temptation to seek revenge.

When we worked toward an agreement regarding the Truth Commission and its purpose, we did so believing that true knowledge of the facts is in itself a lesson. The historical experience of agreeing to investigate the facts, of allowing the truth to be made public, and allowing the world to find out the facts, is the great permanent benefit of this dramatic effort. The responsibility with which we assume this rapprochement based on reality, will make the exemplary nature of the Salvadoran process—which was conducted by all of us—even more evident, and will earn us even more respect.

Salvadoran brothers, let us not think only of the expectation of this night before. Let us not dwell on curiosity over tomorrow's events. Let us prepare to view all of this from a loftier level; as history and as a lesson. For many, the sacrifice of war was worthwhile. But the effort to achieve peace, which also demands sacrifice, is worth the while for all of us. May God protect and enlighten us, and may He make each day greater, more noble and more peaceful for our dear Country El Salvador.

FMLN Holds 'Emergency Meeting' Over Cristiani Speech

PA1503042193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0249 GMT 15 Mar 93

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Mar (NOTIMEX)—On the evening of 14 March, El Salvador's Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) began an emergency meeting to analyze President Alfredo Cristiani's call for amnesty and forgiveness.

A FMLN spokesman told NOTIMEX that the former guerrilla command will analyze the president's speech before giving an official position on it.

Cristiani asked Salvadorans to forgive the crimes committed by the guerrillas and soldiers throughout the 12 years of civil war, which the Truth Commission will report on 15 March.

On 14 March, Cristiani requested an "immediate, general, and absolute amnesty," after the international wire services collected details of the report from the UN, which holds soldiers and guerrillas responsible for violating human rights.

FMLN Reacts To Defense Minister's Resignation

PA1303014993 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] Fellow Radio Cadena YSU listeners, the one time Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] guerrillas, on learning of Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce's resignation this morning, reacted by describing the act as acceptance of his responsibility in the events that have taken place.

FMLN Press Secretary Juan Ramon Medrano linked Ponce's resignation to the Truth Commission report that will be made public at the United Nations on 15 March.

[Begin recording] [Medrano] I believe that a responsible attitude must prevail on the part of all political and social sectors with respect to the persons involved in this issue. The way I see it, General Ponce has played a dual role. One role involves human rights violations during the war. The other role, a more positive and favorable one, included creating a consensus and favorable views within the Armed Forces concerning the negotiations. I believe this has been a very important factor in maintaining a certain degree of stability and in having everything lead toward national understanding. I believe that we must all reflect on whether or not Gen. Ponce's resignation is good for the country.

[Unidentified reporter] Would the FMLN call on other military officers who may be involved in the Truth Commission report to step down?

[Medrano] I believe that we must adopt a responsible attitude with respect to the persons involved in human

rights abuses who maintain a disposition that could harm the country and to those who, despite their transgressions, could play a positive role in the new direction the country is preparing to take. I insist once more, Gen. Ponce has been playing a positive role toward creating a consensus surrounding the agreements. Thus, it is important to weigh whether or not his resignation is convenient. [end recording]

Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce resigned this morning, three days before the Truth Commission is to reveal its report on the major crimes perpetrated in El Salvador during the past decade. In an urgently scheduled news conference, the defense minister stated that he had made the decision to put his position at the disposition of the president of the Republic so that he might adopt the necessary measures when he sees fit.

FMLN Leader Welcomes Ponce's Resignation

PA1203213193 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Facundo Guardado, a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front Political Committee, said the resignation of Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce was positive for the country and the Armed Forces. Guardado added the other officers mentioned by the Truth Commission must follow the general's example, who on Friday, 12 March, put his post as defense minister at the disposal of the president.

[Begin recording] [Guardado] My view is that Gen. Ponce waited too long to make this decision. It seems to me this is the best course the Army can take. I hope the remaining 14 officers implicated in human rights abuses, according to the ad hoc commission, will follow his example. I think it this is best for the country, reconciliation, and peace, so we can all live with dignity in peace and liberty.

[Unidentified reporter] What do you think prompted his resignation?

[Guardado] I think words are superfluous. It is clear the commissioners and the Truth Commission have conducted a serious investigation. They have acted responsibly during the investigation. They are committed to peace in the country and reconciliation among Salvadorans. It is to be expected that those who fought on the side of the Army are involved in flagrant human rights violations. This is what the people believe and what all Salvadorans know. I repeat, the best thing the other officers could do, for the sake of their own institution and officers who are committed to democracy in El Salvador, is to leave the Army. They should leave room for a new generation of officers and enlisted men who want to assist in rebuilding a peaceful El Salvador. [end recording]

Ponce Says Post at President's 'Disposal'

PA1203192693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1715 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Statement by Defense Minister General Rene Emilio Ponce to domestic and foreign reporters at the Armed Forces Joint Staff auditorium in San Salvador—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...and thank you for your understanding because we will not answer any questions. I want to talk about the sacrifices the Armed Forces made during the 12 years of war. We made these sacrifices proudly while complying with our constitutional duty of defending the state from aggression.

I wish to make very clear that the Armed Forces did not provoke or seek to wage a war. We, as soldiers, defended the Salvadoran state from Marxist-Leninist aggression that tried to seize power through force and establish a totalitarian state in El Salvador.

These sacrifices involved in this struggle included the loss of human lives. We lost many valuable men. We lost 10,000 soldiers. We also sustained 25,000 men wounded of which 7,000 are now disabled. We must find a way to reincorporate them into the country's productive life.

That is the sacrifice that as soldiers we made with pride to defend our fatherland, to defend the institutions of the state, and to defend the Salvadoran nation. I would also like to point out that during the negotiation process the Armed Forces assisted and closely supported the government in order to find a politically negotiated solution to the conflict. We were convinced that a military solution was not stable and did not meet the vehement aspiration of the Salvadoran people to enjoy a peaceful climate.

I want to stress that had it not been for the support that the Armed Forces gave the truly constituted government, it would have been highly unlikely that the Chapultepec Agreements would have been signed; it would have been highly unlikely that the agreements the government pledged to keep would have been upheld. This support of the negotiations was a sacrifice of the Armed Force's honor in order to satisfy the aspiration of peace of an entire people, who were being attacked and were watching their institutions being destroyed, and who were also suffering the onslaught of an armed aggression.

You and the Salvadoran people are witnesses of this situation. The institution has made a sacrifice for the sake of national interests so we can now enjoy peace, which I hope will lead us toward development and to meet the social and economic needs of all Salvadorans.

I would also like to talk about a concept of justice. During the time of Plato, it was said justice consists of giving each one his due. Pragmatic politicians, however, define justice as giving what is advisable to the stronger. That is what we are experiencing now, when the stronger, unconcerned by the national interests of developing

countries, impose criteria that is often out of step with the reality that exists in a given country.

I would also wish to mention that this pressure exerted by the strongest countries is the result of their political positions. This pressure is exerted all over the world by those who are stronger economically and politically. This pressure will not make the men falter either.

I will refer specifically to the Ad Hoc Commission. I would like to ask a few questions. Are the Ad Hoc Commission recommendations fair? We think they are unfair and biased by all the information we know about the Ad Hoc Commission report.

Are the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Commission constitutional and in keeping with our laws? Why did Ad Hoc Commission members issue a list without daring to include the reasons that led to their recommendation of certain measures? They said the reason leading to their conclusions and to their recommendation of those measures was that those on the list to be removed from the Armed Forces are people who cannot adapt to the new reality of peace and democracy in our country. That is a very subjective viewpoint. National and international propaganda has turned these people into the most serious human rights violators in our country.

Why did the Ad Hoc Commission members not cite this reason? Were they not convinced of this situation? Were they responding to all sorts of pressure? These are questions and reflections I am sure—as we are now realizing—will be topics of discussion in various forums in our country and abroad.

The Armed Forces has made sacrifices with great pride because we think—and we are convinced of this—that as servants of the state, we must meet the aspirations of an entire people.

No one ignores the current national and international pressures which exist in this regard, nor do they ignore the possible threats and pressures that may come in the future. The 11 million [currency not specified] in security or military aid from the United States has already been suspended. This is actual pressure and more may come.

Having analyzed these situations like a soldier who, I believe, has fulfilled his duty, which is something the members of the armed institution have done in the most difficult moments experienced by our country, and also filled with a patriotic sentiment and seeking the welfare that the Salvadoran people and the national called El Salvador could receive, I have made the decision to place the post of defense minister at the disposal of the president of the Republic so he can take the pertinent measures he feels are advisable.

I do this as a soldier who wants the best for his country. I do so because I have to live here in El Salvador. I do so for the benefit of the present and future generations of Salvadorans. I reiterate: the members of the Armed Forces have proudly done their duty both in the time of conflict and in this peace process with the firm belief that we are interpreting the legitimate aspiration of all Salvadorans. This pamphlet entitled, The Threat to Sovereignty and the Destruction of the State, has been issued. This pamphlet contains the various threats hanging over our country. Some local commentators and intellectuals have made reference to or discussed this. All of this happens to the nations that depend greatly on foreign aid. It is my hope that these pressures will not be exerted in the future, here and in other developing countries of the world. Thank you for your attention and I hope you will understand the situation. Thank you very much.

Guatemala

CUSG Wants U.S. Preferential System Extended

PA1203211793 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p 2

[Text] On 10 March, the Guatemalan Confederation for Trade Union Unity (CUSG) called for a six-month extension of U.S. preferential treatment for Guatemalan producers.

On 10 March, CUSG Secretary and Deputy Juan Francisco Alfaro confirmed that U.S. unionists are investigating the behavior of production sectors in various countries and are monitoring labor law compliance.

Although they are focusing on the assembly plant sector, they are also aware of labor law violations in the agricultural and commercial sectors, said Alfaro.

The United States maintains a general system of preferences for certain nontraditional exports and will decide whether to maintain it in Guatemala. Its decision will be announced on 1 April.

Government reports indicate that Guatemala earns about $400 million each year from nontraditional exports benefited by the commercial preference system. These exports could be seriously affected should the United States react positively to the request of certain labor organizations.

Arturo Alvarado Perez, government public relations official, said foreign unionists calling for the elimination of preferences are defending their own interests by protecting the market, whose needs are met by the production of goods by Guatemala and other countries.

Government Offers Protection to Devine Case Witnesses

PA1203211993 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p 8

[Text] Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa offered protection to the four soldiers acquitted for the death of U.S. citizen Michael Devine, after they requested protection for fear of reprisals against them.

The Fourth Court of Appeals was notified on 10 March of the aforementioned decision in a letter, which indicated that Pablo Lajuj Ismalej, Fabian Arevalo de la Cruz, Benjamin Punti Peruch, and Andres Morente Tipol arrived as guests at the Justo Rufino Barrios General Headquarters.

In addition, the letter states that since 5 March, the four soldiers have been placed under the responsibility of Juan Daniel Aleman, secretary of political affairs of the Presidency, and Colonel Mario Alfredo Merida Gonzalez, who will guarantee the soldiers' security.

This measure was adopted after the four soldiers reported that Captain Hugo Roberto Contreras Alvarado had ordered the kidnapping and ensuing killing of Devine, as well as the changing of the color of the vehicle used for the investigation.

Meanwhile, a writ of habeas corpus in favor of the four soldiers is being pursued before the Seventh District Court. The soldiers told the Human Rights Attorney's Office and the Archbishopric's Human Rights Office that they are being pressured not to testify in this case.

The soldiers will remain at the Army's General Headquarters until the court hears their testimonies, as part of the process that will enable the Fourth Court of Appeals, which is the court handling this case, to issue a sound ruling.

Honduras

Commission President on Callejas' DNI Intervention

PA1203162993 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Mar 93 p 5

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Francisco Cardona Arguelles, president of the political commission of the National Party of Honduras, disclosed that President Rafael Leonardo Callejas' administration will adopt the high level recommendations to intervene in the workings of the National Investigations Directorate (DNI).

Cardona Arguelles stated that "what I can assure you is that the government of the republic will have to act according to the recommendations made by the commission and what Monsignor (Oscar) Rodriguez has indicated."

Cardona Arguelles spoke during a news conference accompanied by Tegucigalpa Archbishop Oscar Andres Rodriguez, and Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PCDH] politician Alfredo Landaverde on 10 March. The recommendation to intervene was announced during the news conference.

Rodriguez said that the recommendations are the result of all the opinions the commission gathered during its meetings with business leaders, workers, farmers, human rights groups, and other professionals.

"I would say that we gathered the opinions of all the organizations that had an opinion on the issue. Our duty now is to present immediate measures. We believe that this immediate recommendation is a reply to an issue that is in the undercurrent," Archbishop Rodriguez said.

He explained that the commission has not received information on isolated cases of people being abused by DNI officers or agents. However, the organizations they met with "did offer some examples."

Callejas' Return

The church official said that he is awaiting the return of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas from his official visit to Chile in order to proceed with the setting up of a board that will proceed to intervene in the DNI.

He commented that "we have already presented our report, and we hope that as soon as the president returns the intervention will be executed."

He did not dismiss that in the future the police, which is currently under military control, could fall under civilian jurisdiction. Immediate recommendations have recently been made, and it is now up to the commission, which has until 1 April, to issue a new document that includes other measures.

The archbishop noted: "We must execute a purge as soon as possible and take the necessary measures to fill in the vacancies" that will be produced at the DNI.

Moreover, he said that if there are officers or agents who are involved in violations or abuses "they should be placed in the courts' custody."

Rodriguez said that among the recommendations that the commission will make for the medium and long term are rehabilitation programs for the DNI agents and officers who are dismissed and placed in the courts' custody.

When questioned if the Armed Forces supports the decision to intervene in the DNI, the archbishop said: "this is a very timely question." The Armed Forces are members of the Ad Hoc Commission and this decision has been made by all the commission members."

Armed Forces Senior Council Issues Communique

PA1403173793 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Communique from the Senior Council of the Armed Forces]

[Text] Considering that Honduras is a state, established as a free and democratic republic to ensure the enjoyment of justice, liberty, and well being of its population, where the human being is society and the state's supreme end. Encouraged by these principles and learning from the commander in chief of the Armed Forces the relevant information on the decisions he has adopted with regard to the situation that involves the conduct of the Department of National Investigation, DIN, and because the said measures are appropriate to the issue at

hand, as result of this, the Senior Council of the Armed Forces [Cosuffaa] hereby informs the national and international public of the following:

1. The Armed Forces' conviction has been strengthened as a result of the changes Honduran society has experienced through the decisions made by its Legislative Branch in the improvement of the laws that have reinforced its democratic ideal, its patriotism, and the consolidation of its nationality, which was subject to strenuous tests during the past years, the solution of which allowed the country and its Armed Forces to readjust its objective and its fundamental interests in such a way as to reflect national and international changes and the people's desire to live in a better society.

As a result, we have urged Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to request as soon as possible through the corresponding channels, the amendment of Article 164 of the Armed Forces Charter Law, to eliminate the paragraph stating that the National Investigation Police or National Investigation Directorate is a body of the public security force, and place it instead at the disposal of the president of the Republic and commander general of the Armed Forces, for whatever purposes he deems necessary.

2. The National Congress should be asked to complete the ratification process of articles 90 and 91 of the Constitution, with regard to the military jurisdiction, which is established in Decree 189-85 of 24 October 1985, and which was presented to the chamber in response to requests made by the Armed Forces.

3. The respectful treatment that our institution has given the civilian authorities should be maintained, and especially to the authorities of the Judicial Branch, as we have never intended to influence the decisions of judges and courts of the Republic, which have been exclusively entrusted with the strict application of the law, without exceptions or pressures of any nature.

4. We completely and fully support the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission appointed by president of the Republic, thus, being a result of the aspirations that have been broadly stated by different sectors of the nation, which the Honduran Armed Forces faithfully serve.

5. As an entity for counseling and decisionmaking with regard to the affairs brought before it, the Cosuffaa states its broad support for the Armed Forces Staff in the decisions it may make within their rights, in the understanding that the other sectors of the Honduran society should also adjust their actions, inspired in the nation's basic interests, established by the constitution and laws of the Republic, in accordance with the political, economic, social, and cultural reality of the Honduran people, while always maintaining the common welfare of the national community as the final goal.

[Issued] Comayaguela, Municipality of the Central District, on 12 March 1993.

[Signed] Senior Council of the Armed Forces of Honduras.

Nicaragua

Presidency Issues Communique on Embassy Occupation

PA1203134493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Communique issued by the Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency in Managua on 11 March]

[Text] In view of the events at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica on 8 March, the Press and Information Directorate of the Presidency makes known to the public:

1. The Nicaraguan Government has been cooperating with the Costa Rican Government to the extent of its possibilities and under the limitations established by international law. For this purpose, it has maintained close communication with the Costa Rican authorities and has sent Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta and Foreign Deputy Minister Jose Bernard Pallais to provide the Costa Rican Government with the necessary support to protect the lives and obtain the release of the members of the diplomatic mission in accordance with international law.

2. The actions of the Republic of Nicaragua do not substitute for Costa Rica's main responsibility for the preservation of the mission's security, but constitute complementary support to find a solution to the problem. Therefore, the work of the Costa Rican Government in the solution of this situation is not of facilitating a dialogue, but of intervening directly in any action undertaken to resolve the difficult situation at the Nicaraguan mission in San Jose.

3. The constitutional Government of Nicaragua is not the counterpart of the armed group that violently seized the diplomatic installations. Its effort has been limited to supporting the Costa Rican Government to persuade the group to end the occupation and respect the lives of all those kidnapped.

[Issued] Managua, 11 March 1993

Anti-Sandinists Attempt To Occupy Station

PA1203150893 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1353 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Managua, 12 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—A group of armed anti-Sandinists on 12 March tried to occupy a radio station in the Nicaraguan capital in support of the kidnappers at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose, but the police thwarted their action.

The police arrested three armed men, who identified themselves as members of the National Salvation Democratic Front (FDSN), at the Radio Mundial studios as

they were airing a proclamation in support of the kidnappers at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica.

The FDSN, which is made up of rearmed former contras, carried out violent acts in rural areas of Nicaragua in 1992, but this is the first action involving its urban commando units.

The three hooded individuals entered the privately owned station at 0700 (1200 GMT) to air the proclamation in support of the Yolaina Commando unit led by former contra Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who has held 16 [figure as received] hostages at the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose since 8 March.

Radio Mundial sources told ACAN-EFE the police surrounded the immediate area, occupied its studios, and arrested the three individuals as they were reading their message.

In their proclamation the anti-Sandinists said they support the demands of the Yolaina Commando unit, which include the dismissal of two high-ranking officials of the Chamorro administration and the delivery of $6 million.

The police took the anti-Sandinists to Station No. 2 in Managua, but has not yet identified them.

Recontras Broadcast Statement Supporting Urbina

PA1203154793 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1520 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Managua, 12 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Three armed recontras took over a Managua radio station on 12 March and forced the station operator to broadcast a statement supporting the demands by the command unit that took over the Nicaraguan Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 8 March, it was reported in Managua.

Alma Rosa Arana, Radio Mundial manager, explained that from 0630 to 0700 (1130 GMT to 1200 GMT) "recontras" identifying themselves as members of the so-called National Salvation Democratic Front (FDSN) took over the radio station.

The recorded statement supported the action by Jose Manuel Urbina Lara, who has been holding diplomatic personnel captive in the Nicaraguan Embassy for almost five days.

According to unofficial sources, the National Police arrested the armed men and confiscated the cassette.

The FDSN statement agreed with Urbina Lara's demand that Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo and Army Chief General Humberto Ortega be dismissed. Urbina is also demanding a change in the current political orientation of the government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.

Further on Takeover of Radio Mundial

PA1203200493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Managua's Radio Mundial was the target of a terrorist takeover at 0645 [1145 GMT] on 12 March. It was perpetrated by three armed individuals who, after holding the workers at gunpoint, broadcasted a proclamation in support of the occupation of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Costa Rica. According to people living near the station, the terrorists were arrested almost immediately by a police patrol in the area. This report was neither denied nor confirmed by the authorities of the 2d Police District. At the time of the takeover, announcers Mauricio Tenorio, Franklin Sosa, and Marlena Sosa and technicians Jairo Rivas and Jose Miranda were at the station. The station was off the air for several hours while the police investigated the incident.

The Government Ministry released information about the terrorist group. The ministry identified the three arrested men as: Gerardo Sandoval Montalvan, Jose de la Cruz Osaga Urbina, and Manuel Salvador Lopez Marin. The Government Ministry officials confirmed that the three men are members of the so-called National Salvation Democratic Front. They ruled out any participation by members of the police. The source said the police acted quickly because since 11 March they had received information about possible actions by extremist groups so they intensified patrols in the area. Gerardo Sandoval Montalvan has a criminal record for his involvement in smuggling explosives. The group arrived at the station with their faces covered with nylons and with two handguns. During the seizure of the station, they aired a statement recorded by a woman. They also painted slogans on the station's walls.

Pallais Returns, Updates Embassy Situation

PA1403221093 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 0135 GMT 14 mar 93

[News conference by Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais upon returning from San Jose, Costa Rica, with unidentified reporters on 13 March in Managua—live or recorded]

[Text] [Pallais] On 13 March, we continued to work with Costa Rican authorities to coordinate efforts to ensure that National Police Commander Fernando Caldera, who is in San Jose, was able to contact Costa Rican security authorities. It is very important, and we have stressed this, to have close cooperation and a permanent exchange of information between the two countries' police institutions.

We set up these meetings. Commander Caldera is already working with various police institutions in Costa Rica, including the Judicial Investigation Agency, the Intelligence and Security Directorate, and the Civil Guard, to discuss the various aspects of this case and to exchange information. This is necessary to obtain a

complete overview of the situation. We can use this information to finalize a strategy that will lead us to rescuing the hostages at our embassy.

On 13 March, we spent some time with relatives of hostages and with the Foreign Ministry and diplomatic service personnel who were released. I met with all of them. I also met separately with the relatives of those who are still being held hostage. I asked them to trust the government. I conveyed the government's support in this difficult time, a time when we should show our solidarity and repudiate this action.

[Reporter] In the past few hours, have the people who occupied the embassy contacted the Costa Rican Government, which is now in charge of the situation at the Nicaraguan Embassy?

[Pallais] There have been contacts to ensure that the hostages receive food and stay as healthy as possible. Among others, the deprivation of freedom, which has been prolonged in this case, could cause serious psychological damage; it always leave serious scars. We must try to make things as comfortable for them as possible, despite the overcrowding situation [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Could we say that this could be settled in the next few days, given that Costa Rican police and security forces are exerting heavy pressure?

[Pallais] Mr. Urbina has mounted a propaganda act. He has a great desire to be in the news. Appearing in the media is the greatest encouragement for him to continue this crime. This situation has been reversed because Costa Rican media have reflected the unanimous condemnation of the Costa Rican people who do not think that violent action is the solution for anything. They think violent actions run counter to the legal state and democratic principles that reign in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The Costa Rican people have censured this action; more than that, we could say that they have repudiated it. This repudiation was reflected in the media.

On 12 March, many San Jose residents stoned spontaneously the windows of the embassy to show their repudiation. I am sure his actions deserve the rejection of Costa Ricans, Nicaraguans, and Central Americans. This is a new development because he is seeking publicity [words indistinct].

[Reporter] When you talked about drafting a strategy to [word indistinct] the hostages, is there a deadline for [word indistinct] and use of force?

[Pallais] Our main interest is the safety of the hostages. We must guarantee that these hostages are freed safe and sound. This is essential, and all decisions we make will try to keep risks to a minimum. In the best case scenario [words indistinct] that analysts should analyze before making a decision.

[Reporter] Do you rule out any measure?

[Pallais] In these cases no measure should be ruled out. No government can resign to the principle of authority. It must ensure that the law is respected and that criminals are captured.

[Reporter] On the afternoon of 13 March, it was said Ambassador Alfonso Robelo had requested assistance from the international community; from the Costa Rican Government and the Nicaraguan Government to expedite the [words indistinct]. What is the government's opinion?

[Pallais] The so-called Stockholm Syndrome is present during all kidnappings. Kidnappers and kidnappees identify with each other. This syndrome is a general rule in all kidnappings. As days pass it grows stronger. Some think this is a psychological defense mechanism and not an intelligent decision on the part of the kidnappee. It is done to obtain better treatment from his kidnappers.

In this case, I would unequivocally say, based on all the information provided by Costa Rican authorities and collected by Commander Caldera and myself, that Robelo had nothing to do with this action. He is a victim who is suffering. As a victim, he deserves the understanding, solidarity, and respect of all Nicaraguans.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct] a mariachi playing there?

[Pallais] This is part of the repudiation shown by various Costa Rican civic institutions; by a democratic country. Its citizens are repudiating the criminal, violent, and antidemocratic actions of the kidnappers. In addition to the messages carried by the media, there have been spontaneous acts of repudiation involving Costa Ricans.

Presidency Minister Lacayo Departs for Washington

PA1403131593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Mar 93

[All figures as heard]

[Text] Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo departed for Washington on the night of 12 March.

Minutes before boarding his plane, Minister Lacayo said he trusts that there are good possibilities that the U.S. Government will unblock the $50 million worth of aid still pending for Nicaragua. He said he believes so because President Bill Clinton is Nicaragua's friend and he knows that the path taken by the President Violeta Chamorro's government.

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] We must remember that there is a new government in the United States. A government that believes what we are doing in Nicaragua is the right thing, even if—as in any other country in the world—there are problems here that also worry them, such as human rights, the problem of the properties—which we inherited from the previous government—and the challenge of professionalizing the Armed Forces.

However, the important thing—as they told us when I was there in December 1992 at the time of the transition—is that with the new government, we will deal with the problems as friends.

Therefore, the friendly relations will allow us to face these challenges we have in Nicaragua, but counting on the U.S. Government as a friend definitely opens the doors for the disbursement of the $54 million.

[Unidentified reporter] Is there support from the UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies for your trip?

[Lacayo] Not that I know of, but I do have the support of the people. When I visited San Pedro de Lovago on 12 March, mayors and even Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega openly supported the disbursement of the $50 million. [end recording]

Lacayo on National Dialogue, Embassy Crisis

PA1303193993 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] A few minutes ago we returned from a trip to San Pedro de Lovago where Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo inaugurated the site of a future milk processing plant and other projects in the area.

Minister Lacayo's speech attracted attention because he expressed optimism about his forthcoming trip to Washington to see how Nicaragua's blocked assistance can be released.

The fact that the presidency minister was the main speaker at a new cattle breeders association meeting is very strange. It sort of reminds us of when the Sandinists were in power and they would establish parallel associations. I can recall when the FAGANIC [Federation of Nicaraguan Cattlemen's Association] was established, the Sandinists formed the UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen]. When CONAPRO [National Federation of Professional Associations of Nicaragua] was established, they created Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations. This would seem to be a similar type of situation taking place here with this government, assembling another cattle breeders association by using Antonio Lacayo.

On the other hand, we have recently learned that UNAG President Mr. Daniel Nunez traveled to Washington allegedly to pave the way for Minister Lacayo's arrival and to make arrangements for the U.S. Government to release the frozen assistance to Nicaragua. Let us now hear part of the speech made by Minister Lacayo's this morning.

[Begin recording] ...on issues related to road construction for them to understand the steps Nicaragua is taking now that we are living in peace and democracy. I want to add that we are going to win this frozen assistance battle. When we have won this battle, it will be due to all of those who clearly voiced their opinion in favor of the assistance like Monsignor Juan Antonio Vega, Mayor (Christian Matos), and [first name indistinct] Aleman, president of the development zones and the San Pedro Cattlemen Association. To all of you, I give the eternal thanks of President Violeta Chamorro. [end recording]

Ladies and gentlemen, we have just heard Minister Lacayo express his optimism in his upcoming trip to Washington. He said the assistance to Nicaragua will be released. Well, the U.S. Government has already said that after three years in office, the Chamorro administration has not yet returned confiscated properties. That is one of the major issues the confiscated association has presented before U.S. Congress, as well as President Clinton.

Minister Lacayo also mentioned that he is calling UNO [National Opposition Union] political sectors to participate in a dialogue. Let us now listen to part of Minister Lacayo's news conference and some of the questions we asked him with respect to the government's so-called enemies. Let us listen to what he has to say.

[Begin recording] [Lacayo] The group who were harmed the most by these actions are the government's enemies.

[Unidentified reporter] In what sense are they to be considered as enemies of the government? According to you, the government has many enemies.

[Lacayo] No. We believe it is one thing to be political adversaries who oppose the government, but within a framework of a state of law, or what is allowed in a democracy. Then there are those enemies who constantly attack the government by hitting below the belt. This type of conduct is against the law and contrary to what the majority of the people want, which is to live in peace. Actions such as what we have recently witnessed in our San Jose Embassy are clearly terrorist acts. In this respect, terrorism can never be considered as a weapon within the framework of democracy.

[Reporter] Minister Lacayo, how is that embassy situation going to be resolved? At what point is the government not willing to comply with the requests made [words indistinct]?

[Lacayo] From the beginning, the government was quite clear. No political situations will be solved through blackmail. Any government that accepts blackmail is not really a government.

[Reporter] Can you expand some more on your invitation to the UNO to participate in a national dialogue. What is the government proposing for the dialogue?

[Lacayo] Well, the important issue is to begin a dialogue. You know that Mrs. Chamorro presented two dialogue initiatives to UNO during February and both were rejected. They decided not to participate and chose to abstain. Now we have been observing that the demands made by these terrorists groups coincide with the call for a national dialogue. We do not know if they have decided to cease using legal methods and instead adopt other methods. Precisely because of this we want to

reiterate the call made by Mrs. Chamorro for a national dialogue, and for them not to avoid the dialogue.

[Lacayo] As one of the leaders of the cattle breeders association mentioned a while ago, they should not put any conditions in order to participate in a dialogue. The call is aimed at reiterating Mrs. Chamorro's willingness to talk and to search for solutions to any problems that may arise, but through talks.

[Reporter] When would this take place?

[Lacayo] It is open. Hopefully they will decide soon. On 9 March, the Colombian ambassador presented an initiative in this respect. He invited some government officials to dinner, and said that he would like to promote a dialogue with the UNO [National Opposition Union] political council. The UNO political council rejected the initiative made by the Colombian Embassy. We believe that this was quite inappropriate especially to a country that has been so friendly toward Nicaragua. The Colombian people and especially President Cesar Gaviria have been very supportive. Thus, it is open. If they decided soon, Mrs. Chamorro's representatives would contact them at once. [end recording]

Well, these were Minister Lacayo's statements. He indicated that the dialogue should be without any preconditions attached. The UNO Political Council has already presented its key negotiation points. Nevertheless, they have indicated there are no negotiations currently taking place.

Caceres Surrenders, Demands Jobs

PA1303042493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Henry Caceres, alias Tarzan, who laid down his arms near El Jicaro, Nueva Segovia Department, on 11 March, has asked the government for a job and requested compliance with the agreements. Caceres sought protection under the International Commission of Support and Verification, CIAV, disarmament program and an Italian cooperation program. He aired his message over this station. [Begin Caceres recording] Our group, German Pomares Ordonez, has laid down its arms in the presence of delegates of the government ministry, CIAV, Cardinal Obando y Bravo, and [words indistinct]. Tarzan, secretary general of the German Pomares Ordonez, and his staff did not make this decision out of cowardice but to show to our people that we want peace and reconciliation. Consequently, this is what we say.

1. The government will be to blame for any crimes that armed groups perpetrate against fellow Sandinists, their relatives, cooperatives, and the demobilized.

2. We hereby ask the various disarmament organizations and the OAS [Organization of American States] CIAV to ensure that the pledges made to our demobilized be properly complied with. The government has failed to make good its word to other armed groups that demobilized earlier. This failure led to armed insurrection, not to destabilize the government, but to protest the economic crisis and unemployment created by political revengers who oppose Sandinists and overlook the fact that we are Nicaraguans too. We are hereby requesting that jobs be created for all Nicaraguans. This is why we are showing that, as Sandinists, we do not want more war. Enough of crimes against innocent peasants. We are asking the government to disarm completely those groups of recontras who operate throughout the country. [end recording]

Government, RN Agree to Fulfill 1990 Agreements

PA1303133793 Managua Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Representatives of the former Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, reached three important agreements on 11 March after meeting with Government Ministry officials to examine the extent to which the agreements reached at the time of their mobilization have been fulfilled.

Deputy Government Minister Jose Joaquin Lovo Tellez explained the scope of the agreements, adding that next week they will meet again to prepare an agenda and outline a strategy for the fulfillment of the agreements signed in 1990.

[Begin Lovo recording] They agreed to allow 10 government officials follow up on the fulfillment of the agreements that each ministry must promote. That was the first agreement. The second agreement calls for the social cabinet and part of the security cabinet to follow up on the (?documents) that constitute the framework of the agreements. The third agreement, which deals with security issues, calls for the election of four representatives—one for each faction—who would meet with the government minister and Deputy Security Minister Frank Cesar to prepare an agenda for a presentation to the plenum of the security cabinet, which is presided by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo.

These are the agreements we reached. The former RN members expressed a great deal of satisfaction at having achieved [words indistinct]. They said it was one of the most productive meetings they had attended and that they will discuss it within 15 days and present the lists of the individuals who will work at the state ministries. Meanwhile, we also considered [words indistinct]. The Government Ministry and social cabinet will eventually include the coordinators of the infrastructure cabinet and the production cabinet.

Therefore, we will certainly have an answer soon from the ministers who are members of the other two cabinets, who will support the decisions reached by the social cabinet and agree to allow the Nicaraguan Resistance members to remain at the ministries that are fulfilling the agreements with the Resistance.

It is very important that you allow me to say that we spoke of [words indistinct], of programming each ministry's budget, we discussed dreams and the reality of this country's economy. [end recording]

Dr. Lovo explained the extent to which the agreements signed with the former Nicaraguan Resistance and President Violeta Chamorro have been fulfilled.

[Begin Lovo recording] We have not agreed on the extent of fulfillment precisely because we do not have a document that reflects each minister's actions to this end. [words indistinct] it is the only way to objectively resolve the problem. Of course, [words indistinct], they understand that. [words indistinct] they will determine the country's [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Ervin Barberena, alias Commander Oscar of the Southern Front, expressed his views regarding the agreements reached.

[Begin Barberena recording] We admire the position of Health Minister Martha Palacios, who was the very first to support us on health matters and [words indistinct]. We talked for two or three years before these agreements were signed. Over the next few weeks the four factions will meet and decide which ministry they will enter. [end recording]

Jinotega Contras, Recontras Complain of Government Failure

PA1303021493 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by Francisco de Jesus Rodriguez from Jinotega]

[Text] In a public statement, 14 former Jinotega contra and recontra commanders said on 12 March that the government has complied only with 20 percent of the agreements signed on the day they demobilized.

Eight commanders of the National Self-Defense Movement and six commanders of the National Salvation Force released one communique each saying that, one year after they demobilized, only 20 percent of the government pledges have been complied with.

The communique says: We were offered homes, land, scholarships, legalization of land occupied by combatants, and loans for farming. Only 20 percent of all this has been complied with. The government, irresponsibly, has said that it has complied with 80 percent of these pledges. This is not true.

We hold the government responsible for the consequences of any steps our combatants take, considering that they have waited patiently for the government to make good its word regarding the agreements. Conversely, we will not be held accountable for any further actions by the combatants because these actions will be out of our control, the communique ended.

UNO Deputies 'Obstruct' Legislative Work At Assembly

PA1403133493 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Mar 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Text] The deputies of the Political Opposition Alliance and the National Opposition Union [APO-UNO] have once again used their hit and run tactic in the National Assembly. This time their intention was to obstruct the Sandinist initiative that proposes to repeal the constitutional article that defines military service.

As usual, the APO deputies arrived at the beginning of the discussions, but once Assembly President Gustavo Tablada called for a vote on the bill the APO deputies left the room.

This time, however, they made a change: they left "moderate" Armando Zambrana of the Christian Democratic Union. He requested the floor and lashed out an insulting speech that prompted a violent reaction from Deputy Dora Maria Tellez.

Zambrana waited and explained why the APO-UNO does not support the repeal. He said that what they seek is overall constitutional reform.

At the end of his speech, he became confused and accused the Sandinist deputies of being "terrorists." As his words drew laughter from those listening, Zambrana became enraged and reaffirmed his statements: "Yes, they are terrorists. Remember the attack on the palace and on the home of Chema Castillo," he blurted and then left his seat.

Deputy Dora Maria Tellez felt directly affected, as she participated in the attack on the palace. She immediately responded that she was "personally and politically proud" to have attacked the Somozist pigsty while they—the APO-UNO—as Somozists, profited from Somozism "and then hid behind their mother's skirt, because they were all cowards."

Dora Maria called the APO-UNO deputies "white-collar murderers" and "vampires" who thrived on the blood of the peasants of the Nicaraguan Resistance during the war, receiving the millions of dollars the United States sent to the contras, while they—the politicians—did not even get their hands dirty.

Sergio Ramirez, the leader of the Sandinist wing, said that as long as the APO-UNO continues to walk out of the debates "there will be no progress along the road to negotiation."

"Just as they left the deadbeat Orlando Buitrago alone on 10 March, now, on 11 March they have left thousands of mothers alone; those mothers who are hoping that the mandatory military service law will be repealed; those mothers who they themselves have been scared by telling them military service is returning," Ramirez said.

UNO deputies Alejandro Solorzano, Alvin Guthrie, and Andres Robles criticized their former colleagues and asked the Board of Directors to carry on with the law to abolish military service.

Robles said that the abolishment of military service was one of the UNO's electoral commitments and, by rejecting it, they are obstructing the first step toward constitutional reform, which was another commitment.

"Now we see that everything they did was nothing but demagoguery. All they want is to create turmoil across the nation. They do not want military service to disappear because they are using it to stress the people," Robles said.

The Board of Directors finally decided to forward the draft to a special commission, which will have two months to report on the bill. The commission members are Deputies Armando Zambrana—if he shows up—Luis Enrique Figueroa, Carlos Zamora, and Ivan Madriz, and will be presided by Alejandro Solorzano.

At the end of the session, the Assembly sent the social package on to a special commission. The laws were proposed by the Sandinists and will benefit tenants, loan holders, pensioners, and the Atlantic coast population.

Financial Cooperation Agreements Signed With Germany

PA1203235893 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] After new agreements were signed between Nicaragua and Germany, German Ambassador Helmut Schieps said Nicaragua still has priority status in bilateral cooperation. Erwin Kruger, Nicaraguan minister for foreign cooperation, thinks there is a good chance the U.S. Government will disburse $50 million to Nicaragua.

Nicaragua and Germany signed three financial cooperation agreements, for approximately $20 million, to update and improve electricity distribution and telecommunications networks, and to beef up the social fund.

[Begin Schieps recording] Nicaragua will always occupy a priority place in bilateral cooperation between Germany and Latin America. The three agreements signed on 12 March are part of the bilateral financial cooperation program agreed on in 1991. [end recording]

Kruger thanked Schieps for the loans, made under very easy terms, which include a 10-year grace period. Kruger appeared optimistic over the negotiations for U.S. aid.

[Begin Kruger recording] We know the U.S. Government is studying Nicaragua's case. We have a number of friends in the U.S. Congress who are backing us up. I understand the presidency minister will travel to the United States next week for high-level talks with the government of President Clinton. Technically speaking, the $50 million are not frozen. The problem is in their disbursement. Its fluidity must improve. [end recording]

Kruger said loans for agriculture depend on the disbursement of these funds by the U.S. Government.

Panama

President Protests Comptroller's Leak in Open Letter

PA1403175693 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Mar 93 p 2

["Open Letter" from Panamanian President Guillermo Endara to Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles in Panama City on 12 March]

[Text] 12 March 1993
Ruben D. Carles
Comptroller General of the Republic
Dear Comptroller General:

To my great dismay and surprise, I see today, 12 March, that you have made public the information that you reported to me two days ago, and which at the time, you labelled as private. At that time I requested concrete evidence in order to take immediate action. Nevertheless, you expressed that the issue was confidential and that subsequently you would provide me with the details I required.

In the same public manner in which you have disclosed what you labelled as private, I publicly demand that you supply me with the names and the concrete evidence you have on the improper use of central government funds and facilities to carry out "proselytizing activities."

Only if you are clear and very precise can I act in a firm and swift manner. Broad accusations made without evidence are not constructive, rather, they only lead to create unnecessary concern in our community. Moreover, these [accusations] are also a personal marked injustice and a lack of the most common courtesy toward the members of my cabinet who wish to carry out an honest and efficient government effort.
Sincerely,
Guillermo Endara Galimani
President of the Republic

Carles Responds to Open Letter; Matter Not Private

PA1403180593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Mar 93 p 1

[Report by Vilma E. Figueroa B. and Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Excerpts] On 12 March, Comptroller General Ruben D. Carles stated that he will give President Guillermo Endara all the necessary information on the government officials who carry out proselytizing activities during office hours, just as the president requested. [passage omitted]

In regard to Endara's statements, Comptroller Carles said the president has the right to react in any way he sees fit.

Carles added that he had received President Endara's letter and is currently gathering the information to respond to Endara's request.

The comptroller referred to Endara's statement in his letter to Carles that he was surprised to see that the media had reported on a private problem. Carles said the problem stemmed from this point because he had never stated that the matter was private. [passage omitted]

Chevalier Says Missionaries Alive, Negotiations Continue

PA1403201593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Mar 93 p1a

[Report by Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Excerpts] Government Minister Juan Chevalier reports that the three U.S. missionaries kidnapped by alleged Colombian guerrillas on 31 January are alive and that to the extent of his knowledge, the negotiations for the missionaries release are continuing. [passage omitted]

Chevalier noted that the negotiations are being held by members of the New Tribe. The missionaries are members of the New Tribe.

He added that although he is not participating in the negotiations, New Tribe members told him that they talked with the kidnapped missionaries over the radio, proof that they are still alive. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Government Invited To Join Missile Technology Regime

PY1203034093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2339 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (NA)—The Foreign Ministry today officially reported that the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) member countries have decided to formally invite Argentina to "join" that organization.

The Foreign Ministry stated that this decision "will become effective during the next MTCR meeting, and it represents a clear recognition of Argentina's (?concrete steps) and contributions in the field of the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons of mass destruction, especially those linked to missile technology."

The next plenary meeting of the MTCR member countries will be held in Switzerland later this year. On that occasion, in addition to Argentina's formal entry, Hungary will also effectively join the organization.

On 9 March the U.S. Embassy in Argentina released a communique on the government's policy on nuclear weapons nonproliferation and the destruction of missile technology.

In the communique, the embassy mentioned, although indirectly, the dismantling by Argentine authorities of the Condor-2 missile, whose parts were sent to Spain and the United States a few days ago.

Despite reports stating alleged discontent by U.S. military authorities over this issue, the embassy, through the communique, praised the Argentine decision to dismantle the project.

Cost Prevents Government From Sending Contingent to Kuwait

PY1403225493 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Mar 93 p 5

[Excerpt] President Carlos Menem apologized yesterday to Kuwaiti Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir Sa'ud al-Sabah for not being able to send a contingent of 800 men as part of the UN peacekeeping force in Kuwait because the cost involved in such an operation would amount to 25 million pesos.

Al-Sabah, who was sent by the Kuwaiti chief of state, told Menem that his government greatly appreciated Argentina's gesture not only on this occasion but also its participation in the Persian Gulf war and that it will try to work out a solution with the Argentine Government to enable Argentina to send a contingent, as requested of Argentina by the United Nations. [passage omitted]

Files of Nazi War Criminals Confirmed Open

PY1403214593 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Mar 93 p 1

[Text] The Argentine government officially confirmed yesterday that the files containing information of Nazi war criminals who sought refuge in the country was at the disposal of the (DAIA) Delegation of Argentine-Israeli Associations.

Foreign Minister Guido di Tella said that the DAIA had a special team which would delve into the files' contents for the next two years. "They can investigate what they want," the official said.

Chairman of the Jewish World Congress Edgar Bronfman expressed his satisfaction for the official gesture which he considered "historic," a local news agency said.

Di Tella and DAIA President Ruben Beraja exchanged notes yesterday afternoon at the Foreign Ministry—where Bronfman was also present—pledging that the investigation into the activities of Nazi war criminals would continue.

Di Tella said that the "widening of the investigation comes at the right time," since the DAIA is carrying out the so-called "Testimony Project."

Defense Minister on Military Salary Demands, Condor-2 Missile

PY1203144693 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0152 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 March (NA)—Newly-designated Defense Minister Oscar Camilion stated that the military's salary demands "are fair" and despite the lack of resources the government is determined "to refurbish public funds and pay those who are responsible for the country's security."

He said: "This is a task that concerns both the Defense Ministry and the government, although it will be up to the Defense Ministry to face the situation."

In an interview published in the latest issue of GENTE magazine, Camilion, former UN envoy in the Turkish-Cypriot conflict, declined to comment on possible "problems" within the Armed Forces because of the low wages.

Camilion has not ruled out possible changes in the Armed Forces' retirement system. He said: "This mechanism was established a long time ago and will not be easy to modify. This issue will have to be analyzed within the general system of retirements."

As for the military institutions that remain to be privatized, Camilion said that "the Defense Ministry must handle" this process. He ruled out the possibility of transferring it to the General Secretariat of the Presidency headed by Eduardo Bauza.

Camilion said: "I will concentrate my efforts" on reorganizing the Armed Forces. He stated useless expenses must be avoided and a medium-term plan must be implemented, leaving aside routine and old schemes.

Concerning the decision to include Argentine troops among UN peacekeeping forces, Camilion said: "One cannot participate in any indiscriminate mission. The objectives and resources—which are limited in Argentina's case—must be analyzed."

Commenting on the Condor-2 missile issue, Camilion said Argentina "will not make decisions that may imply a risk or a concern to others, but it will not give up its right to technological development either." He said: "We will in no way go beyond the dangerous limits."

Judge Impounds Menem's Salary in Alimony Suit

PY1203155293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2115 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Mar (NA)—Judge Delma Cabrera has ordered Eduardo Bauza, secretary general of the Presidency, to withhold 50 percent of President Carlos Menem's monthly salary, by no later than the fifth day of each month, until enough money is withheld to cover the amount claimed as alimony by Zulema Yoma.

Yoma's attorney, Alejandro Vazquez, confirmed that earlier today he had delivered the order signed by Cabrera, a civil and commercial judge from San Isidro District in the Government House front office.

Bolivia

Envoy Confirms U.S. To Reduce Antinarcotics Aid

PY1203135693 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The United States will reduce its aid for the antinarcotics campaign by 30 percent as compared to last year, which was confirmed by Mr. Jorge Crespo, Bolivian ambassador to the United States.

U.S. President Bill Clinton's new administration has decided to drastically reduce the funds allocated for drug enforcement, especially for Peru, Colombia, and Bolivia, concentrating on the sturggle against drug abuse in the country of the north.

[Begin Crespo recording, in progress] ...has implemented substantial cutbacks in drug enforcement offices in the United States. They will definitely dedicate themselves to fighting demand in the United States. They are also cutting back on the budget for the Andean area. This is, however, also a result of the general budget cutbacks being implemented in the United States to reduce its deficit. [end recording]

Let's deal with figures. Instead of the $100 million that the United States has granted to Bolivia, it will simply grant $70 million, which represents a 30 percent reduction in U.S. aid for drug enforcement.

And what will happen with bordering countries, mainly those in the Andean area?

[Begin Crespo recording] As far as the Andean Group is concerned, a total 50 percent reduction has been decided. In other words, in the cases of Peru and Colombia, 60 percent and 70 percent reductions, respectively, have been implemented. [end recording]

Crespo also announced the arrival of private U.S. investors, who are visiting our country in search of investment possibilities.

Ecuador Asked To Expel Alleged Terrorist

PY1203164393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1752 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Excerpt] La Paz, 11 Mar (EFE)—The Bolivian Government has asked Ecuador to expel Bolivian citizen Alberto Augusto Zalles Cueto, who has been arrested in Quito. Zalles has allegedly participated in terrorist attacks in La Paz.

Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra reported that the request is based on the fact that Zalles' documents are not in order and "because according to reports we have received at the ministry, he is one of the main members of the Nestor Paz Zamora Commission (CNPZ)."

Zalles was arrested by Quito police on 6 March. He has been living in Quito since May 1990. Reports from Quito state that his alleged participation in terrorist attacks is under investigation.

The CNPZ is an armed cell of the renewed ELN [Army of National Liberation], which has adopted the name of one of Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora's brothers. The CNPZ began its terrorist activities in 1990 with several bomb attacks and by kidnapping Jorge Lonsdale, who is one of the most outstanding Bolivian businessmen. [passage omitted]

Ex-Police Captain Seeks Asylum at Venezuelan Embassy

PY1303134893 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Report by Edwin Perez]

[Excerpts] Good morning. Inside or outside prison, former police Captain Waldo Panozo has announced that he will continue to fight corruption. Panozo has a list of 103 policemen who are due to be promoted, although they are involved in drug trafficking or corruption while exercising their duties.

According to Panozo's relatives, the pressure and threats he has received from those involved in those illegal activities yesterday forced him to carry out his plan of requesting political asylum at the Venezuelan Embassy.

He did so at 0930 after asking permission for a medical checkup outside the San Pedro prison where he is being held in custody for eight charges brought against him: two for slander and libel, two for reportedly beating drug traffickers, and four for a 1991 traffic accident.

Panozo's wife justified the asylum request by stating that there are many interests in silencing her husband forever. [passage omitted]

For several days Panozo planned to reach the Venezuelan Embassy. Yesterday he asked his guard and the nurse who was accompanying him to allow him to submit documents at the Illimani building on Arce Avenue, where the Venezuelan Embassy is. Once at the embassy he submitted a formal request for asylum, to the surprise of his guard and nurse.

Venezuelan Ambassador to Bolivia Otto Veitia contacted his government to receive instructions. At 1615 he went to the Foreign Ministry, from where he returned with Under Secretary Armando Loayza to meet Panozo and his lawyer, Teresa Montano. [passage omitted]

At almost 1830 the Venezuelan ambassador reported that Panozo had given up the idea of asylum and that he wanted to return to San Pedro Prison after receiving guarantees for himself and his family from the Bolivian Government. [passage omitted]

The ambassador and under secretary then accompanied Panozo to the prison. Before entering the prison, Panozo again accused Colonel German Linares and other high-ranking police officers of trying to murder him, but he said he wanted to prove all accusations. [passage omitted]

MacLean Expresses Concern Over Environmental Exploitation

PY1203170693 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean Auaroa has just learned that Brazilians are exploiting natural resources in Bolivian territory and expressed his concern over this fact:

[Begin MacLean recording] This is a subject of continuous interest to and concern for Bolivia. We have a law to protect the environment. We have issued a decree to prevent exploitation of the environment and to protect the ecology, and everything that violates government decisions will be the continuous concern of the Foreign Ministry and the appropriate organizations. [end recording]

Brazil

Government Said To Expand Enriched Uranium Capability

PY1403222593 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0104 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 12 March (AFP-NA)—Admiral Othon Luiz Pinheiro da Silva told GAZETA MERCANTIL that Brazil will expand its capability to produce enriched uranium by 29 percent this year.

Adm. Pinheiro da Silva, chairman of the Navy Ministry's Special Projects Coordinating Board (Copesp), reported that this increase will be achieved by installing 162 high-speed centrifuges, totally designed and manufactured in Brazil, in Navy laboratories.

The Navy Ministry is developing its nuclear program at the aforementioned laboratories. This program is concurrent with the one implemented by the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Metallurgy to produce nuclear energy.

Adm. Pinheiro reported that approximately 565 high-speed centrifuges already have been installed at Copesp laboratories and their engineers have developed the technology to produce nuclear fuel all by themselves.

He stated that "our objective is to set up a pilot plant with approximately 8,000 high-speed centrifuges" and added that "because of a political decision" the enrichment of uranium will be limited to 20 percent.

According to GAZETA MERCANTIL, a confidential government report recently disclosed that there are some 3,000 high-speed centrifuges in Brazil.

The newspaper added that the [word indistinct] Navy Ministry [words indistinct] over the last few years resources amounting to $56 million in developing the technology to produce nuclear fuel, building a nuclear-powered submarine, and building nuclear reactors with an installed capacity of 11 to 600 MW [megawatts] to generate electrical energy.

The Navy Ministry is studying the possibility of building storage facilities for nuclear fuel on an island off the Brazilian coast, the exact location of which has not been decided yet.

Brazil's national nuclear energy policy, which is being implemented within the framework of the agreement signed with the former FRG in June 1975, provides for the installation of eight nuclear power plants in Brazil with an installed capacity of 1,300 MW each and the technology transfer to produce and enrich uranium.

Angra-2, the first of eight nuclear power plants planned in the aforementioned agreement, will become fully operational in 1997, according to what was made public by Marcelo Siqueira, chairman of Furnas Electric Power

Plants, Inc. and in charge of operations at the Admiral Alvaro Alberto nuclear power plant, located 150 km from Rio de Janeiro.

Angra-3 is also part of the project, but construction work has been interrupted due to the serious financial straits the country is facing. Angra-1, which has a 626 MW, U.S.-made Westinghouse nuclear reactor, has been functioning erratically since it became fully operational in the 1980's.

Ex-Aerospace Center Director on Nuclear Projects

PY1203225793 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese
10 Mar 93 pp 7, 8, 9

[Interview with Brigadier Hugo Piva, former director of the CTA, Aerospace Technical Center, by Joao Fabio Caminoto, at his office in Sao Jose dos Campos; date not given]

[Text] [Caminoto] During your professional time at the CTA, did you ever feel that the Brazilian Government wanted to build a nuclear bomb?

[Piva] There were times when tension with Argentina was rather unpleasant, and we sort of blew the dust off the files that contained the technology for possible military use. I recall that before the time of General Galtieri [former de facto Argentine president 1981 to 1982] there were rumors that Argentina had the bomb and a missile. We were concerned, but rumors immediately faded and we did not make any decision. We wished the tension had continued, because we would have received a higher allocation for our work.

[Caminoto] Did Brazil try to build the bomb?

[Piva] Brazil has always been very prudent and never wanted to produce a bomb. Our country badly needs energy and we are about to use up all our hydroelectric potential. This is why we invested in nuclear energy, which appeared to be the solution to the world's energy problem. Although many referred to our work as a parallel project—to which many people have attached military connotation—we filled a demand from the Brazilian scientific community.

[Caminoto] Was there ever a project to build the bomb?

[Piva] No. We carefully kept secret the technologies that could have military applications, for use in case of necessity. The same thing was said when we announced that we intended to build a satellite launch vehicle, the VLS. It was said that we did it for the sole purpose of developing a ballistic missile, which was not the case. We wanted to develop the technology to have, whenever we needed it, the capacity to build a missile.

[Caminoto] Would it have been easy then to produce a bomb?

[Piva] If things worked that way, elementary school children would never be taught mathematics, because math is essential for any military development. We cannot stop the development of a nation just because that development could be applied to military technology. I am sure that half the cases of murder in the Third World are perpetrated with kitchen knives. Yet this is no reason to forbid housewives to have knives in their kitchens.

[Caminoto] Could Brazil have managed to manufacture the bomb during the past decade?

[Piva] It could have, but there was no interest.

[Caminoto] Are the conditions currently right for that?

[Piva] If other countries can, why not us? But there is no need.

[Caminoto] You sponsored the VLS, which should have transported the Brazilian satellite to space. Did you feel frustrated when an American rocket carried out the mission?

[Piva] I felt very satisfied because, in the end, our satellite was launched. I think, however, we should have made a greater effort and launched it with our VLS which could have been ready long ago. We have all the necessary resources to launch our rocket and it would have been much cheaper than the American one. It would have cost $7 million, while we paid $12.1 million.

[Caminoto] How long ago could the VLS have been ready?

[Piva] The Brazilian space program was admired by the whole world. No other country made as much progress with so few people and so little money. We did not receive any essential aid from anyone for that program. We developed everything—propellants, special materials, space technology, calculus methods— from scratch. The creation of the Sonda 4 began to bother everyone. It was boycotted by the whole world. They feared we would have military applications for it, which is just an excuse because Brazil does not have any militarist vocation to conquer anything. We did not declare war; we solved our border problems peacefully. Others have solved their problems by force and still have not changed. We, the underdeveloped, are the ones who should have the right to prohibit weapons because others use them unwisely.

[Caminoto] How did the boycott affect you?

[Piva] Each technological triumph caused concern. The first was when we managed to make solid propellant. In the beginning they exported the raw materials to us, almost free, because they could not believe we would get there. When they saw we had developed the propellant they began restricting the supply of raw materials to make the propellant. Then we managed to manufacture the raw materials. We then developed the technology needed to produce the special steels needed for constructing great rockets, which few countries master. That caused great surprise.

[Caminoto] Do you consider that the VLS development program has failed?

[Piva] I would not call it failure. I think the space program was betrayed by the Brazilian Government. Those who criticized it are responsible.

[Caminoto] You maintain that mastering advanced technology is the measure of the degree of sovereignty of a country. Has our sovereignty been threatened?

[Piva] I think so, yes. We have been weakened. Since the last administrations, since 1986, there has been a surrender that affects the future of our country. That could be changed, but it will take at least 20 years of hard work. Ours was a first world team, now we are behind.

[Caminoto] Is the Brazilian satellite outdated?

[Piva] I would not say that. It is simple. We launched a cheap satellite as a matter of prudence. With the PRC we are developing a more sophisticated satellite.

[Caminoto] Was the VLS just a pretence to build a ballistic missile?

[Piva] We are paid by the people to defend the country. There was a feasibility study. If ordered to do so, we could make a missile but only under that situation. It was never started. We could have built one had it been ordered; it would not have been a problem.

[Caminoto] Hypothetically, if the Brazilian Government had the technology it could have used it for military purposes if necessary?

[Piva] Those are very strong words. We wanted to develop the technology because it would bring about national development. Brazil needs space. Our continental dimension, inaccessible regions, dependence on agriculture and on forestry make us highly dependent on space information. We need an earth observation satellite to control our borders. It is a national sovereignty issue.

[Caminoto] How could a Brazilian rocket help in this program?

[Piva] There are many scientific missions and applications that require very special small satellites flying in low orbits. Brazil could have fulfilled that requirement. The U.S. rocket that carried the Brazilian satellite will fill that market. It will capture the market we wanted.

[Caminoto] Do you know if Russian scientists were contracted to develop rocket propellants at the CTA?

[Piva] I heard something about that at the beginning of the Collor administration, but it was just that. I do not know any more details.

[Caminoto] What is the status of advanced research in Brazil?

[Piva] The Collor Government was very negative toward the scientific research area and toward advanced technologies. He ended research in our country, which is an irreparable crime. A team of scientists can be disbanded in five or six months. Training a scientist takes at least seven years. We lost 20 years, because the country went backward. We have to begin again, regaining international credit. No one believes in Brazil any more.

[Caminoto] Should Brazilian industry return to the world weapons market?

[Piva] Yes, because Brazil has stopped in that area. We need the weapons industry because it is a sophisticated area that promotes other industries. Brazil today exports products that are manufactured as a result of the technology that the weapons industry brought to the country. We could have all of our industrial capacity involved in the weapons industry. In case of military mobilization, we would only have to reverse the flow, channeling production toward our own needs instead of selling our products abroad. To buy weapons is the worst possible deal because you transfer a lot of money abroad to create jobs and promote advanced technology somewhere else. In a military conflict, you can only buy the weapons that your supplier wants to sell you. To maintain that the country does not need the Armed forces is nonsense. Never in the history of mankind has any nation done without its Armed forces. A nation either has its own Armed Forces or remains under the rule of the Armed Forces of its neighbor.

[Caminoto] Did the Iraqi Government pay all it owed you?

[Piva] No. We had what ammounted to a current account. We did many things for them, and at that time the balance was in our favor. Unfortunately, they could not pay because of the boycott.

[Caminoto] You have always maintained that your activities in Iraq were limited to developing a small air-to-air missile. Many people say that your work went far beyond that, including modifying Scud missiles and contributing to nuclear development. Is that true?

[Piva] Iraq was a privileged partner of Brazil. The Brazilian Government strongly fostered those deals. I did not go there on my own account. I began the contacts when I was on active duty, with an official mission in 1979. I did not transfer any technology that I received from abroad; everything was developed in Brazil. I did not develop any sensitive technology for use in nuclear ballistic missiles. The air-to-air missile was something that they could buy as they wished. They had hundreds of missiles: U.S., French, Russian.

[Caminoto] Did Brazil export sensitive technology to Iraq?

[Piva] As far as I know, we only exported uranium ore, on which there is no restriction.

[Caminoto] And enriched uranium?

[Piva] I can assure you we did not.

[Caminoto] Should all technological projects be handled in a way that is totally clear to society?

[Piva] I don't think so. There are sensitive issues that cannot be made public to neighbors or commercial competitors. The same thing happens in the United States.

[Caminoto] What do you think of the proposed demilitarization of the Brazilian space program?

[Piva] The program is not militarized. It is being handled by military men because the CTA, which belongs to the Air Force, happens to be the most advanced center, but most of the technicians and engineers are civilians.

[Caminoto] You are known to have delivered secret lectures to high-ranking Libyan officers in the desert.

[Piva] Some 10 years ago I participated in secret lectures on the use of advanced technology in military undertakings, when Brazil and Libya had good relations. The Libyans gave almost unrestricted diplomatic support to Brazil. It was a friendly country. That was long before the beginning of international terrorism.

[Caminoto] Did we transfer technology to Libya?

[Piva] No. We only sold Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.] vehicles.

[Caminoto] Are you being spied on?

[Piva] I don't feel I am being spied, because they know very well how to do things. I believe that after such a long time there is no reason to worry about me.

[Caminoto] Some of your colleagues say they were betrayed by your leaving the Air Force, because you began to make money from what you learned as an active officer. What do you think of that?

[Piva] I left the Air Force but not of my own will. I devoted all my life to my work as active duty officer. I was not promoted to a four-star general, and I was sent into retirement. Officers are picked for promotion to the rank of general. Minister Moreira Lima, who selected the officers, picked other people. I no longer help because the Air Force does not invite me. Besides, all my commercial activities were endorsed by the Brazilian Government.

[Caminoto] In 1990, President Fernando Collor closed a hole in the Caximbo mountain range, in Para, which had been drilled for nuclear tests. Were you one of the coordinators of that secret program?

[Piva] I am in the military reserve. I still have military status, and the government has already expressed its official position on the subject clearly and with the participation of several scientists. I have nothing to add.

[Caminoto] A military man who has information about a nuclear bomb project should under no circumstances talk about the matter?

[Piva] Of course not.

Army General Responds To Criticisms of Negligence

PY1303001993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Mar 93 p 9

[Text] Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena said on 10 March in Rio de Janeiro that "Brazil's major priority is not the military but the socioeconomic situation." He said that "misery is the country's great enemy" and that a possible "social upheaval" could become the main threat. Zoroastro made these statements in response to criticisms he received this week from generals assigned to Rio de Janeiro. The military called for a general assembly at the Military Club on 12 March to discuss the treatment given by the government to the Armed Forces.

In the past few weeks certain generals, including Euclydes Figueiredo Filho, the brother of former President Joao Figueiredo, charged President Itamar Franco and Zoroastro "with being negligent in handling the Armed Forces' problems."

Zoroastro said that this is not a matter of negligence but of priority. He said: "We obviously have to be in a condition to control social upheaval" but to become really strong, "the country needs a healthy population." He stated: "It is currently more important for the country to build a hospital or a factory than a garrison."

Zoroastro said that he understands that "in view of the number of its members, the Military Club has influence on the military of Rio de Janeiro." He said, however, that the action taken by the club "should not cause concern." He said that he was ready to receive suggestions and voiced his "wish to maintain close contacts with and respect for our comrades in the reserve."

Zoroastro recalled that not long ago he had discussed the situation of the Army with officers stationed in Rio de Janeiro during a meeting of the Military Commando of the East, at which time they had held friendly conversations. Zoroastro stated that "we always want our comrades in arms to advance their suggestions, which will always be welcomed warmly. We have a great respect for those who have devoted so many years of their lives to service in the Brazilian Army and even now express an interest in the Army."

According to Gen. Zoroastro, President Itamar Franco "holds his military ministers in great esteem and is very much interested in the latest developments within the Armed Forces." Zoroastro recalled that the recent meeting of the Armed Forces High Command, chaired by President Franco at Planalto Palace, was convened at the request of Franco himself.

Zoroastro underscored the fact that "what our country needs is to end its sectors of destitute poverty." In conclusion, he said that "the world has changed, Brazil has changed, and the Army has changed. There are other priorities nowadays. Squalor is a breeding ground for a lack of public security."

Equal Pay for Equal Work

In Brasilia, President Itamar Franco contended that the meeting among the three branches of government was necessary so that the project of equal pay for equal work might be effected. During an audience he granted to General Luiz Antonio da Rocha Veneu, chief of the Armed Forces Joint Staff (EMFA), Franco conceded that the project of equal pay for equal work, which was launched last year, had been disabled by the frequent increases in the salaries of congressmen and members of the judiciary.

15 Principles of Economic Program Listed

PY1203144493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 10 Mar 93 Economy and Businesses Section p 1

[Text] Here are the principles of the economic policy Finance Minister Eliseu Resende reported to the Senate:

1. To resume selective economic growth at a sustainable rate by generating jobs and improving income distribution.
2. To control Treasury expenses to spend only what is collected.
3. To avoid adopting compulsory measures or measures that go against previously contracted commitments.
4. To maintain interest rates at real levels, although not at excessively high levels.
5. To adjust the exchange rate policy to stimulate exports.
6. To continue renegotiating the foreign debt under the current conditions.
7. To reorganize the fiscal system and implement simplified taxes.
8. To strictly control the government's expenses, especially at state-owned companies.
9. To speed up and expand the privatization program.
10. To readjust public utility rates to maintain their real value, based on the increase in costs.
11. To resolve the public debt, including that of the federal government and state and county governments. The solution will be discussed with Congress.
12. To continue opening up the trade process, particularly regarding the Common Market of the South.
13. The government will work on programs to compensate the less-favored sectors of society.
14. The government will implement a deep and comprehensive fiscal reform within the constitutional reform.
15. The government will preserve fiscal openness and keep Central Bank and Treasury accounts separate.

Article Views Industrial Property Proposal

PY1203215893 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Mar 93 Section 1 p 4

[Article by Liliana Lavoratti]

[Text] Brasilia—The new government proposal for an industrial property law restricts the concession of patents to chemical and pharmaceutical products that have not yet been commercialized in Brazil or in the country of origin. With this, the government rejects the retroactive recognition of the patents of products that are already on the market.

To facilitate negotiations and to expedite the approval of the project, which has been under consideration in Congress for two years, the new proposal seeks to reconcile the interests of the national industry with those of multinational companies. The government thus agrees to grant patents to medicines that are being developed, provided that there are no investments in Brazil by the national industry or by multinational companies seeking the invention and manufacturing of the product.

According to a report issued by the Itamaraty Press Secretariat, another requirement for that exception is that the product not be available in any market. Restrictions defended by the scientific community and the national industry are thus contemplated, while the doors remain open for the great research institutions from developed countries.

Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso yesterday said that the government excludes patenting processes involving nuclear energy, as provided by the law, and living beings, such as animals and plants. At a meeting held yesterday between Cardoso and Industry and Commerce Minister Jose Andrade Vieira, Agriculture Minister Lazaro Barbosa, and Science and Technology Minister Israel Vargas, a one-year period was established for implementing the law, pending approval by the president of the Republic.

According to those ministers, industries need that period to adjust themselves to the new rules. The proposal designed to replace the project submitted to the national Congress by the Collor government contemplates only 60 days for implementing the law. This is the second amended project submitted by Deputy Ney Lopez (PFL-RN) [Liberal Front Party—Rio Grande do Norte], the sponsor of the project. The amendments must be added to the amended proposal by the sponsor. Before being submitted to Congress, the proposal will again be approved by President Itamar Franco and Justice Minister Mauricio Correa.

Agreement Signed With Japan To Clean Polluted River

PY1203204793 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Japan will help clean the polluted Tiete River in Sao Paulo as well as Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro. An agreement signed this morning between the Brazilian and Japanese Governments provides for the release of $840 million, almost 20 trillion cruzeiros, for those projects.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Japanese Ambassador to Brazil Yasushi Morazumi. The Japanese Government will transfer $840 million to the state governments of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo. Governors Leonel Brizola and Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho participated in the ceremony at Itamaraty Palace. Some $270 million will be used in constructing a sewage system to clean up Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro.

The remaining $570 million will go to Sao Paulo to clean up the Tiete River and for constructing a garbage reprocessing plant.

With guaranteed financing, the governments of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo will begin setting up the first biddings for initiating projects in May or June at the latest. It is expected that the Japanese funding will begin arriving at the beginning of the second half of the year. [passage omitted]

Chile

Aylwin Voices Concern Over 'Lack' of Police Coordination

PY1303182193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0134 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 12 Mar (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin on 12 March met with the Carabineros and Investigative Police directors to voice his concern to them over the clear signs of a lack of police coordination.

Aylwin warned them about the incident that occurred 10 days ago at the Plaza de Armas in downtown Santiago. Carabineros (military police) and civilian police were about to engage in a shootout after the arrest of a civilian policeman.

The incident caused a major traffic jam in downtown Santiago because both Carabineros and civilian police blocked the streets with their patrol cars to jam each other.

This was the second incident between Carabineros and civilian police in less than three months, a fact that has worsened the traditional rivalry existing between both forces.

Acting Interior Under Secretary Jorge Burgos released the official report on the meeting between Aylwin, Carabineros Director General Rodolfo Stange, and Investigative Police Director Nelson Mery.

Burgos stated that President Aylwin had reiterated the need to strongly reinforce all the measures designed to coordinate and make police activities more efficient.

Explosive Charge Blows Up High-Voltage Tower

PY1203143893 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Report by Gerardo Beltran from mobile unit]

[Text] An explosive charge was detonated early this morning at a high-voltage tower on a bridge over the Maipo River. The explosion made the tower collapse, which in turn caused several power outages in Santiago. Police believe the attack was perpetrated by terrorists to demonstrate against President Aylwin on the third anniversary of his inauguration.

Providencia, La Granja Districts Bomb Activity Noted

PY1203170393 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Report by William Rebolledo from mobile unit]

[Text] The GOPE [Special Police Operations Group] went to the Pangue hydroelectric plant administrative office, a branch of the National Electric Company, Inc., located at 488 Suecia Street, Providencia District, to deactivate a bomb containing 300 grams of ANFO [ammonium nitrate-fuel oil].

Thanks to a timely call, police deactivated the bomb, which could have caused casualties and material damage. Pamphlets alluding to the Lautaro group were found in the Amagao area.

Unidentified individuals also detonated a bomb at the Alejandro del Rio school at 65 North Street, Joao Goulard neighborhood, La Granja District. The attack occurred at approximately 2330 on 11 March, and the explosion did not cause casualties.

GOPE personnel found that the bomb contained 200 grams of ANFO and was activated mechanically.

Pilot Escapes Uninjured From M-50 Mirage Crash

PY1203170593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The pilot of an M-50 Mirage fighter from Air Force Group Four that crashed at noon yesterday at the beginning of a combat training flight escaped uninjured. The accident that occurred in the 12th Region was caused by a mechanical problem with the landing gear, and the failure's seriousness was assessed during the flight. The pilot successfully managed to eject from the plane.

The plane fell near the coal deposit in Pequet, 60 km from the northeastern part of Punta Arenas. The pilot was identified as Captain Claudio Ibacache Escudero, 30. He was rescued uninjured by Air Force helicopters and taken to the Armed Forces hospital in Punta Arenas. He was discharged in the afternoon and sent home.

PRC's Qian Qichen Meets With Aylwin 12 Mar

PY1303022193 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] After meeting with President Patricio Aylwin, PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen gave a news conference, in which he stated that the objective of his trip, namely to further trade relations with Chile and the other Latin American countries he visited, had been amply achieved.

He further stated that the PRC was interested in increasing its imports of copper, lumber, and fish meal from Chile.

Chile's trade with the PRC stands at $500 million, which represents approximately 2 percent of Chile's overall trade with other nations. Chilean businessmen told Qian that they were interested in boosting Chilean exports to the PRC, especially those that have a greater added value.

EC President Delors Arrives in Santiago 11 Mar

PY1203163793 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Silent, not saying a word to journalists amidst impressive security operations, European Community President Jacques Delors arrived in Santiago this morning.

Delors was received with military honors at Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma.

Despite the insistence of journalists, Delors did not make any remarks and Foreign Minister Silva Cimma followed suit.

This afternoon the EC president will meet with the president of the Republic, Patricio Aylwin, at La Moneda Palace, while tomorrow Delors and Aylwin will dedicate the Europe-Chile Entrepreneurial Foundation [Fundacion Empresarial Europa-Chile].

Jacques Delors, the czar of Brussels as he is internationally known, will be decorated with the collar of the Chilean Order of Merit at a banquet hosted by President Aylwin.

Delors' visit to Santiago has elicited various reactions, including that of the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] executive board which said it is a very poor sign to decorate the EC president.

Sour comments were also voiced by fruit industry leaders and exporters and by certain congressmen, who denounced the EC position limiting apple exports to 203,000 tonnes.

Delors will remain in our country for three days and on 13 March will travel to Argentina in continuation of his tour of Latin American countries.

Says EC Not 'A Fortress' Against World

PY1403004293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2231 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Santiago, 11 Mar (EFE)—EC Commission President Jacques Delors stated today in Santiago that Europe is not a fortress erected against the world abroad.

In a speech delivered at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLA), Delors asked Latin America not to consider Europe as "an economic bloc turned exclusively toward itself and its immediate neighbors."

Delors, who arrived today in Santiago for a three-day visit on a tour that also includes Argentina and Mexico, added that the Uruguay Round of GATT is still "an absolute priority" for the community.

The success of GATT depends on each partner. Each one must grant concessions that will lead to a loyal and balanced agreement," he said.

He added that the EC "set the example" on implementing a "profound and painful" reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and that he expects comparable efforts from its partners, especially concerning access to markets, services, and intellectual property.

In his lengthy speech on EC objectives and development, Delors admitted that the organization grouping 12 countries is experiencing "a difficult moment."

He said that the world economic crisis has affected the EC and that the increase in unemployment and social exclusion "are undermining the very bases" of the organization.

He also admitted the opening of a gap between the objectives of the European union and the desire of citizens to contribute to the achievement of such objectives. He also referred to the need to implement "more openness and democracy in constructing the community."

In another passage of his speech, Delors referred to the new world order in which, he said, we must negotiate together world interdependence, toward a "juster and more effective" world economic system.

The EC president asked for the implementation of "an authentic equivalence" between countries of the North and South and added that the struggle against poverty is the "most urgent" challenge of this new order.

In this context he said that the United Nations must adopt legal rules favoring economic development and democratic rules that will guarantee the participation of all in social life.

He supported the initiative submitted by Chile for a world summit on social development.

He said that Europe intends to intensify its ties with the South and added that cooperation with Eastern European countries has not been carried out to the detriment of ties with Latin America.

He explained that between 1991 and 1995 financial and technical assistance to Latin America will be doubled compared with the entire 1985 to 1990 period.

Delors delivered his speech to the diplomatic corps accredited to Santiago, ECLA officials, government officials, and representatives of international organizations.

The ECLA executive secretary, Guatemalan Gert Rosenthal, gave a warm welcome to the European Community Commission president, whom he considered an architect of the EC. He said that the EC is one of the main commerical partners of Latin America and one of its greatest financial suppliers.

On the first day of his visit to Chile, Delors met with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin.

Will Promote Cooperation With Government

PY1203185593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Excerpts] EC President Jacques Delors has stated that the EC is seeking to become Chile's full and loyal partner. He said that he will promote more intense cooperation with the country.

Delors addressed a message to the Economic Commission for Latin America; at no time did he comment on Europe's attempt to limit apple exports. He said that the EC is facing a difficult situation in the wake of the world's economic crisis, which has provoked increasing unemployment and a social exclusion that threatens the base of our society. [passage omitted]

Delors emphasized the support of democratic forces in the past and the wide cooperation promoted in recent years. He also said Europe is ready to support Chile's economic integration in the region. He announced the implementation of a financial and technical assistance program that will benefit Chile. This program will help encourage an original process promoted by President Aylwin's administration to struggle against poverty.

Delors stressed Chile's economic policy and active exporting strategy. He said Europeans can improve their investment in Chile, which is still insufficient. He added that the EC, a major world commercial power, wants to become Chile's loyal partner.

He will meet at 0900 today with President Aylwin and four ministers. At noon he and Aylwin will dedicate the Chile-Europe Business Foundation.

Remarks on Fruit Exports

PY1203201293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] EC President Jacques Delors has stated that the record EC crop has created problems for the Chilean apple industry. He added that, unfortunately, European producers cannot be sacrificed.

Delors met with President Aylwin, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley, Economy Minister Jorge Marshall, and Minister Molina this morning. He said that Europe is facing an economic crisis but that it is seeking harmonic solutions with Chile. He added that no perfect example of free trade can be found in the world because every country adopts the appropriate measures to face its situation.

Asked if Europe will continue to adopt protectionist measures as long as its economic problems prevail, he replied quoting the apple, kiwi, and banana markets.

[Begin Delors recording in French with simultaneous translation into Spanish] I repeat that in the banana and apple markets, we have tried to find a fair solution that considers overproduction and distribution. We think this is not a selfish solution. We will do the same thing in the case of kiwi. It is true that kiwi production has greatly increased in the past few years.

We will try to overcome the problem within the framework of cooperation, but no one will ever be completely satisfied with the outcome. Solutions are not completely acceptable for some and are completely unfavorable for others. Fair solutions have to be found. If we do not find an agreement on this issue, it will be very difficult to make progress in the area of cooperation. [end recording]

Delors said that Europe has a record crop of 10 million tonnes this year and that they could not sacrifice it. He said: We cannot force people to eat more apples. We will, however, allow the entry of Chilean products.

Discusses Trade Restrictions With Aylwin

PY1303170693 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0009 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin stated on 12 March that both his government and EC President Jacques Delors have expressed their political willingness to quickly reach agreements to help resolve trade restrictions.

The matter will be discussed at the Chilean-European joint commission and refers to recent protectionist measures adopted by the EC that established quotas for the entry of Chilean apples and kiwis.

Chilean apple producers have seen their exports to European markets limited to 203,000 metric tons, which will imply a reduction of their income by $27 million. Aylwin said that at the meeting held today with Chilean ministers of the economic area, the EC chairman listened to the proposals with interest, answered the questions, and at the same

time explained the economic problems affecting Europe, especially in the eastern countries.

The Chilean president described Delors as a man of great culture and with a profound knowledge of the European and world situation.

After making these remarks, Aylwin and Delors participated in the EC-Chilean Business Foundation's inaugural activities.

The foundation's objective is to strengthen economic, technological, and trade cooperation between the EC and Chile, within the framework of goods and services companies.

The objectives to be achieved include that of contributing to modernization, innovation, and competitiveness in Chilean companies through the transfer and exchange of information, technology, and commercial ties.

The Chilean president said in the speech he delivered at the ceremony that his government has a special interest in reducing customs barriers and tariff restrictions, in the more active participation of Latin America in global trade, and in greater price stability for Southern Cone exports.

Aylwin added that "protectionist trends must be overcome, trends that have gained force in industrialized countries, although we know that achieving this does not mean a mere reduction to the simple aspect of willingness."

He said that "the slow growth and current unemployment levels in developed countries conspire against them, as well as against the poverty that persists."

Aylwin said that "we are concerned by the fact that reciprocal trade with EC countries, which represents one-third of the value of our exports, has not grown at the pace of our trade with the rest of the world's countries."

Honduran President Arrives for 3-Day Visit 10 Mar

PY1203140493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Mar 93

[Excerpts] Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas arrived at Arturo Merino Benitez International Airport at 1115 GMT local time this morning after a delay of three hours. The reason behind Callejas' three-day state visit is to learn about Chilean economic achievements, to attract foreign investment to Honduras, and to further cultural, economic, and political relations with Chile. Callejas was welcomed at the airport terminal by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, other members of the Chilean foreign service, Honduran Ambassador to Chile Carlos Reyes, and Chilean Ambassador to Honduras (Moy de Toha).

During his stay Callejas will be made a freeman of the city of Santiago; a joint communique will be issued on 12 March. [passage omitted]

President Aylwin met with his Honduran counterpart for approximately an hour. After the meeting, Callejas stated: [Begin recording] We discussed ways of promoting bilateral trade, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and U.S. foreign policy, among other things. In short, we had a lengthy conversation, in which we also recalled past events. I came here for President Aylwin's inauguration. I wanted to share with President Aylwin my admiration for his statesmanship, which enabled great strides to be made in consolidating democracy in Latin America. [end recording]

Cited on Modernization Efforts

PY1203200993 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] Honduran President Rafael Callejas has been in Chile for two days. He said that he is trying to modernize his country in four years and that he appreciates the Chilean model.

Callejas recognizes that more than 60 percent of Hondurans live in poverty. He warned that this sad figure is general in Central America. He said that he is satisfied, however, with the progress achieved during the four years of his administration, which concludes late this year.

He explained that he has reorganized the economy and transformed the protectionist system into a market economy model. He added that after many decades of instability and internal conflicts in Central America, democracy has been consolidated.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Is Cuba still seen as a threat in Central America?

[Callejas] Central America suffered a great deal during the presence of Fidel Castro and although there is no need to recall the past, without doubt Castro was responsible for a great deal of the bloodshed in Central America. I want this to be forgotten. We believe that an option must be found for Cuba because, in our opinion, Fidel Castro is no longer right.

[Reporter] Do you agree that Honduras is the main ally of the United States in Central America?

[Callejas] Without any doubt. We have a geographic, political, and economic affinity.

[Reporter] Mr. President, do you believe the presence of more than 1,000 U.S. soldiers in Honduran territory is justifiable?

[Callejas] Of course. I believe the U.S. presence is necessary. The struggle against drugs is very difficult.

[Reporter] You have spoken well of Chile. Do you believe Chile is a model for other Latin American countries?

[Callejas] Chile is in a transition, having emerged from an illegal government. It was able to establish the path of economic development and economic growth. To complete that framework it realized that economic growth was not enough, that other choices for improving the lives of the

people, for human development, were necessary. This is very complex. Our world is changing and is very difficult for countries like ours. Undoubtedly, Chile has set an example of what can be done through private initiative with the backing of a democratic government. This has shown that economic growth and democracy are compatible. Who is setting the example? Chile. [end recording]

Signs Cooperation Agreements

PY1303233093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1909 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Santiago de Chile, 12 Mar (EFE)—Chilean President Patricio Aylwin and his Honduran counterpart, Rafael Callejas, signed on 12 March a basic agreement on scientific and technological cooperation and a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a Joint Council between the two countries.

The text of the agreement states that the council will be charged with promoting trade, investments, and bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, science, and culture.

On the third and last day of his official visit to Chile, Callejas and Aylwin signed a joint declaration in which they express their concern over drug trafficking and its serious socioeconomic consequences for the countries.

The two presidents also rejected any attempt to disrupt the institutional democratic order in Latin America, as well as the presence of illegal armed groups.

They both rejected any protectionist measure that might affect international trade, such as the establishment of quotas and discriminatory custom tariffs. They noted the importance of unrestricted freedom of trade.

Callejas emphasized the significance of the Chilean political process for Latin America and especially the fact that the democratic transition took place in an atmosphere of freedom, economic growth, and social justice.

During his last day in Santiago, Callejas visited the headquarters of the Chile Foundation, an institution that promotes development projects, to learn mainly about the salmon and forestry industries.

Callejas received a full briefing on the functions of the foundation, with whose representatives he exchanged opinions. He was especially impressed with the mechanism to create enterprises that this institution has put into operation in various areas since 1975.

Callejas attended a luncheon hosted in his honor by the main leaders of the Production and Trade Confederation, CPC, which is the main Chilean business organization, and met with Senate President Gabriel Valdes.

Callejas will return to his country tonight.

Foreign Ministry Official Refutes PCCh's Cuba Criticism

PY1203205093 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Edmundo Vargas has termed as an insult the charge by the Communist Party of Chile, PCCh, that Chile had been pressured by the United States to vote in favor of the resolution condemning human rights violations in Cuba.

Vargas said this represents a true unawareness of how international issues are handled. He said that the government of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy considers human rights a universal value and that their evaluation is not subject to possible political decisions.

He said that in the case of Cuba they did not vote for an presumptive condemnation but that the international community expressed the need to establish procedures to learn about the human rights situation in that country.

Colombia

National Liberation Guerrilla Cell Arrested

PA1303030393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Report by Mabel Vargas]

[Text] The National Police has dealt a severe blow to guerrilla groups in Bolivar Department. An entire army of the National Liberation [ELN] guerrilla cell was arrested and its operations center was dismantled. Authorities say the 12 guerrilla members arrested by police are the perpetrators of many kidnappings and cases of extortion along the Atlantic Coast.

Police in Bolivar Department dismantled the ELN Jaime Bateman Cayon Front after a successful operation. The front is formed by nine men and two women who possessed weapons, subversive propaganda, and uniforms that are exclusively used by the military.

The camp was located in the community of Salado, El Carmen de Bolivar, central Bolivar Department. The subversives are charged with rebellion, kidnapping, extortion, killing peasants, demanding bribes, and attacking the country's infrastructure.

The rebels, weapons, and rest of the material will be turned over to the Barranquilla Attorney General's Office.

Authorities Confirm Arrest of 'Top' FARC Leader

PA1203155593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Medellin—Authorities have confirmed that guerrilla Jose Euclides Suarez Mahecha, known under the alias "Vladimir," who was arrested in Medellin belongs to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia

[FARC] general staff. He is one of the top leaders of the FARC secretariat and trusted aide of leader "Tirofijo" [Manuel Marulanda Velez].

Police Arrest ELN Subversives, Militia Leader

PA1203225493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Police arrested five Army of National Liberation [ELN] subversives, including the people's militia leader in La Jagua de Ibirico. The operation was carried out in central Cesar Department. Jesus Antonio Mendoza, alias Chucho, was people's militia leader of the ELN Manuel Martinez Quiroz Front. He was in charge of mass organization, logistics, and executing peasants in La Jagua de Ibirico. Police also arrested four guerrilla members in charge of providing first aid to subversives injured in combat.

Defense Minister Pledges To Defeat Guerrillas

PA1403041293 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda said that within 18 months, the Armed Forces will defeat the guerrillas and force them to submit to justice. He said the Armed Forces are trying to annihilate subversion by hitting and weakening its criminal apparatus. The guerrillas will be forced to choose the peaceful solutions set forth by the government, solutions that all Colombians support.

No one should expect an almost immediate and total dismantling of the subversive groups. It is only now that we are consolidating the program that will increase our fighting power and create units, Pardo said.

'One of the Largest' Arsenals Seized in Valle Department

PA1303034793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] One of the largest arsenals ever seized, which the Army described as containing assault ordnance, was confiscated early 12 March from drug traffickers in northern Valle Department. The armament includes a remote controlled rocket and a large quantity of ammunition.

Vencedores Battalion members seized the arms at a hacienda in Bolivar Municipality. At the site, two pieces of graffiti mention Medellin and insult the group Persecuted by Pablo Escobar. Military sources described the weapons seized as heavy assault materiel, including 11 rifles, seven submachine guns, one heavy machine gun, and 214 grenades of various types. Some of these arms are marked as belonging to the Peruvian Army. The greatest surprise was the find of a Russian remote controlled rocket. The materiel was turned over to the Attorney General's Office, which conducts the appropriate investigations.

The battalion commander has expressed appreciation for the cooperation of regional and local authorities and that of the general population. This cooperation has made it possible to restore the peace and tranquillity all Colombians hope for.

'More Than' 30 Cocaine Laboratories Said Destroyed

PA1503024693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] More than 30 cocaine-processing laboratories have been destroyed by the Narcotics Police in the jungles of Guaviare and Amazonas. This was one of the largest operations ever conducted. Six helicopters and dozens of officials participated in the operation, of which the TV HOY newscast was an exclusive witness.

Narcotics officials are surveying thousands and thousands of km of jungle in Guaviare, Caqueta, Amazonas, and other regions. They intend to locate small plots, known as chagras, and destroy cocaine-processing plants. We can see from the air how the drug traffickers have cleared the jungle to plant coca. By flying low, we can see the small houses and laboratories located near the coca fields.

We are flying over a clandestine landing strip next to the Vaupes River. Strips such as this are used to load the cocaine into planes from Peru and Bolivia.

[Begin unidentified official recording] This landing strip is 1,200 meters long. It was built on firm ground and is fully operational. The landing strip is equipped to handle small planes, such as Cessna-type single-engine planes. [end recording]

Ground operations are lead by air surveillance missions that are under the direct supervision of the Public Order Attorney's Office. The descent to the laboratories is done amid bullets and suspense. Armed men often attack narcotics policemen as they land. At many of these production centers, narcotics police find the finished drug.

This is one of the many laboratories, also known as kitchens, found here in eastern Miraflores, in the jungles of Guaviare. This substance, called cocaine paste, is processed here. A kilo of cocaine paste is worth approximately 800,000 pesos here in Miraflores. Only one more step is needed before this paste can be turned into pure cocaine and then exported to U.S. markets.

These laboratories are set on fire by the police, but the coca peasants, also called chagreros, repair them right away. This one for example, had been burned in December. It became productive again in less than one month. The operations to destroy drugs and laboratories paralyzes the region for a long time because many residents fear the guerrillas, who are now conducting an all-out offensive against authorities.

Two National Police Generals Relieved From Post

PA1403141593 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] As of 13 March, there are new commanders in two top positions in the National Police. Two generals were relieved of their posts for unknown reasons. They are Generals Humberto Camero Maldonado, inspector general, and Nacin Yanine Diaz, operations director.

It has been announced that changes may also be made in other top police posts. Over the past few months, the National Police has come under suspicion due to incidents involving policemen. One of these incidents involved the murder of a girl at a police station in Santa Fe de Bogota, which to date has not been resolved. The child's father, a policeman, has been arrested and charged with the murder.

On 13 March, EL TIEMPO published the following statements attributed to a highly-placed source at Narino Palace: The statistics on dismissed police personnel are high. The government believes that strong action is the only way to resolve internal problems. The lack of strong action has unleashed a series of serious incidents.

The president of the Republic, defense minister, and prosecutor general have condemned the child's murder at the Santa Fe de Bogota police station and are demanding a full explanation.

The new chain of command is as follows: Brigadier General Fabio Campos Silva is the inspector general and acting director of operations; Brigadier General Rosso Jose Serrano Cadena was promoted to chief of the Special Services Directorate. He was formerly the chief of the Antinarcotics Police and has been replaced there by Colonel Teodoro Campo Gomez, who was director of the General Santander Police Academy.

Two Arrested in Newspaper Director's Murder

PA1403122893 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Two people have been arrested by authorities as suspects in the murder of Eustorgio Colmenares Batista, director of the LA OPINION newspaper. The murder was perpetrated in Los Caobos neighborhood where the journalist resided; he was at home with his wife.

The murderers approached the newspaper director's home in a white station wagon and shot him five times, fatally wounding him. Colmenares was still alive when he arrived at the San Jose clinic but he died shortly thereafter.

Colmenares and former Colombian President Virgilio Barco founded LA OPINION, and Colmenares' editorials were usually about his hometown's problems and reflected an interest in the city's development.

Ex-Foreign Minister To Head Salvadoran Mission

PA1403034693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] On 13 March, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, former Colombian foreign minister, was appointed UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's representative in El Salvador. Ramirez will head a 425-member UN mission that will supervise implementation of the peace agreements signed by the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas, following a civil war that lasted 12 years and claimed 75,000 lives.

Ecuador

Duran-Ballen Returns to Country, Makes Statements

PA1303152093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The president of the Republic of Ecuador, Architect Sixto Duran-Ballen, arrived at Mariscal Sucre Airport in Quito. The diplomatic corps, consular corps, cabinet members, and members of the president's party welcomed him at the airport. The president was welcomed with full honors and Jose Vicente Maldonado, secretary general of public administration, read a executive decree through which Architect Duran-Ballen resumes the presidency.

[Begin Maldonado recording] I attended bilateral meetings of interest for the region's social and economic development and later underwent surgery in Washington. In exercise of the authority conferred to me by Article No. 73 of the Constitution, I decree: Article 1. I resume the exercise of the Executive Branch as of this date. Issued at the national palace in Quito, 12 March 1993. [end recording]

President Duran-Ballen talked with the media at Mariscal Sucre Airport and reviewed his visit to the United States and his surgical operation. He also showed the media the portion of his spine which was removed during the surgery; he even showed it to the television audience.

[Begin Duran-Ballen recording] ...your affection, devotion, support, and concern for my health throughout this period. I want to thank you because you loyally and zealously covered the process, which lasted 24 days; first my visits to Central America and Washington and then the days I spent at the hospital for my recovery.

I particularly want to thank the constitutional vice president, who efficiently carried out his functions according to the law and the Constitution—above all, due to the generosity of his soul, his affection, and his civic-mindedness.

I want to thank you, the members of my cabinet, the cabinet of which I am so proud, because you continued with your functions although your friend, the head of the

state, was far away. We maintained an almost permanent contact through our vice president.

Fellow citizens. I believe the trip was useful. It helped us strengthen our country's ties with three friendly countries—Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States. In each of these cases, we signed mutual aid agreements—all kinds of agreements—and their usefulness has already been felt; and it will be more evident in the near future.

In each of the three countries we received real, enthusiastic, and definitely sincere proof of what we have achieved during the first seven months of our administration, particularly concerning the economic recovery we have attained. Our country has begun to receive the international community's acceptance and effective support in many areas. This is proved by the two loan agreements we recently signed and the fact we have been able to talk, between treatments, with all the international organizations in Washington. We sponsored and continued a dialogue aimed at carrying out new operations.

The World Bank announced this week it will soon send a mission to study the first of several credits that will be granted by various agencies for the new emergency social investment fund. I will be pleased to sign the decree creating this fund on 15 March. This has been possible thanks to the work started before our departure and the work carried out by all the parties involved, led by the vice president in his role as acting president, to achieve this goal.

I wish to assure you that, despite the serious nature of my operation—obviously, it was not a life or death situation, but it was certainly a serious operation. It has been quite successful. I am back with renewed energy and, with the lord's help, I will continue with the same desire to serve my homeland and to continue the tasks the Ecuadoran people saw fit to give me on 5 July.

Thank you for this welcome. In case anyone is interested, here is the portion of spine removed from my body. [end recording]

This was the president's greetings to the country upon arrival at the airport. The media later asked him some questions and he talked about the issues which most concern him; the floods, the privatization law, and the Ecuatoreana de Aviacion problem. The president also said he would pay for his operation; adding it would not cost the state a single cent.

Joint Command Chairman on Foreign Investment in Petroleum

PA1203161093 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] The Armed Forces Joint Command will be alert to and monitor very closely the privatization process currently being debated at the National Congress to ensure national interests are not undermined.

Alfonso Alarcon, chairman of the Armed Forces Joint Command, has said the military institution is open to foreign participation in petroleum activities. He, however, clarified they will be on alert to ensure the companies involved comply with the National Security Law and the Hydrocarbon Law.

[Begin Alarcon recording] We are open to foreign companies supporting our country's development. They must comply, however, with the law. We will ensure they do. We require Ecuadoran companies to comply with the law, and thus, it is our duty, even more so, to ensure foreign companies do the same.

Our National Security Law and Hydrocarbon Law state clearly these companies must subject their exploitation projects and other activities to the consideration of the Joint Command. They must consult the Joint Command. We will analyze their projects and approve them in coordination with the Energy Ministry. [end recording]

Paraguay

President Says Pubiic Servants Should Vote for Wasmosy

PY1303175593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez yesterday urged all Colorado Party members to vote for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket. "All of us Colorados must lend our support to the political campaign of Colorado Party candidates. It is our duty to support them," the president said. He reaffirmed that he does not believe voters will punish Colorado Party candidates, adding that perhaps "four, five, or six people will get voted out but I am sure party unity will be attained."

The chief executive made these remarks after dedicating 200 houses built by the National Housing Council in San Antonio.

Asked whether he is satisfied with the official nomination of [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy and [Angelo Roberto] Seifart as presidential and vice presidential candidates for the Colorado Party, Rodriguez answered: "Of course, I am absolutely satisfied. Just as I have been saying all along, we respect the results of the vote count. Since the party electoral court, faced with this emergency in the primaries, has ruled that Wasmosy and Seifart are the winners, we should respect its ruling."

Rodriguez emphasized that the crisis must be overcome. "Some people are talking about a punishment vote. Those people will punish themselves because I believe that public servants who fail to vote or vote for candidates other than those of the Colorado Party will be punishing themselves, because I do not believe they will keep their jobs if another political party wins the elections. Each one must vote to secure their jobs," Rodriguez said.

He added that party unity will be achieved in time, although he said that "four, five, or six will be out. I am

sure, however, that the unity of the Colorado Party will be achieved. I am confident that this will be so," and urged Colorado Party members to vote for Wasmosy and Seifart.

Colorado Party Chairman Confirms Presidential Ticket

PY1303150893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] After a marathon meeting with [Juan Carlos] Wasmosy and another one with top Colorado Party leaders, party Chairman Blas N. Riquelme stated yesterday that Wasmosy-[Angel Roberto] Seifart will be the official ANR [National Republican Association, Colorado Party] ticket. He also denied he asked Wasmosy to resign.

Riquelme conceded that negotiations with Dr. Luis Maria Argana had failed.

After the meeting that lasted more than five hours, Riquelme said: "I can now inform the Paraguayan public that everything runs like clockwork. We have set up a committee to launch our candidates' electoral campaign—that means we are on the right track."

When asked whether it means there will be no more changes in the presidential ticket, Riquelme answered with some doubt: "I think Wasmosy-Seifart is the ticket and we must support it."

"We are well, as someone you know very well used to say," he added. This was interpreted as a reference to former dictator Alfredo Stroessner. Riquelme added: "You asked me if we have a candidate, and I tell you that we do have candidates. Who are they? Argana, I mean..." (laughs by those present and Riquelme himself after the blunder).

When asked whether he asked Wasmosy to give up his candidacy, he said: "Engineer Wasmosy was not asked to resign."

He also denied discussing the subject with the president of the Republic. He said he had not talked with the president for four days.

Riquelme added that talks were held with other sectors to gather the forces around the presidential ticket. He said talks continue with those groups. "The party's public opinion must learn that we are trying to unite all Colorado Party members for the 9 May elections," he said.

Riquelme admitted that the negotiating attempt with the Argana movement has failed. "There were negotiations; I visited Argana and Diogenes Martinez, but we are not going to allow very generous negotiations that might create problems, and that is the issue we discussed. I must admit that in this area I failed in my negotiations," he said.

The Colorado Party chairman also denied that he wanted to resign from his post as Colorado Party Executive Board chairman, stating that he is firm in his post.

He also said he had the resignation of Wasmosy and Seifart in his hands, when he was asked about it. However, this statement was denied by the Colorado Party candidate.

"So far I have the resignation of the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket. It is not signed, but if I am going to negotiate, I am taking in my briefcase the possibilities to negotiate, and that enhances the candidates, and if it is not possible to achieve unity with their resignations, they will continue as such," Riquelme concluded.

He finally changed his position when he was asked about the doubts he had about Wasmosy's affiliation with the party, stating that as head of the Colorado Party he cannot deal with that "because he is the party's candidate."

Judge Dismisses 'Groundless' Charges Against Wasmosy

PY1303032793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Mar 93 p 31

[Text] In Ciudad del Este, Judge Mauro Barreto has rejected the charges filed against Juan Carlos Wasmosy and others alleging that they instigated the murders of two workers at the Itaipu Binational Agency.

In his ruling Judge Barreto dismissed the criminal lawsuit against Wasmosy; Hugo Aranda, an architect; Anastasio Acosta Amarilla, attorney at law; and Fidencio Tardivo, engineer, on the grounds that "it was a groundless allegation..."

The events took place on 12 December 1989, when German Cardozo, husband of the plaintiff, and Hermelindo Benitez, who worked for a building contractor on Itaipu dam, lost their lives.

The defendants' attorneys, Alejandro Encina Marin, Jose Emilio Gorostiaga, and Nelson Riveros Vera, had previously requested that the action brought against their defendants by Hilda Figueredo, Cardozo's widow, be dismissed. They contended that "the police report drafted at the time mentions what really happened and what triggered off the violent acts in which the Itaipu dam workers were caught."

Judge Barreto stated that none of the evidence submitted in the lawsuit even hints at circumstantial evidence against the defendants, "or points to the fact that they were implicated, either personally or as instigators, in the sad events that took place on 12 December 1989. The fact that the defendants were executive directors of the companies does not in itself lead to the presumption that they were either involved in or interfered with the Brazilian events at the Itaipu Binational Agency. It is thus a groundless allegation."

Judge Barreto went on to say that it was not even possible to raise the proposition that the military personnel who intervened at that time were obeying Wasmosy's orders to shoot at helpless workers, as had been charged.

Argana Movement Rejects Primary Outcome

PY1203143593 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Excerpts] The Colorado Reconciliation Movement issued a communique today. In the communique, released this afternoon, the Arganaist movement rejects the outcome of the primaries, and urges its supporters not to vote for the Juan Carlos Wasmosy-Angel Roberto Seifart ticket. The movement believes that Dr. Luis Maria Argana was the legitimate winner of the primaries. [passage omitted]

[Begin Juan Bautista Ybanez recording, in progress] ...not to vote for the fraudulent Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, arbitrarily imposed by extra-partisan [extrapartidarios] and anti-Colorado power factors, because it does not legitimately represent the will expressed through the ballot boxes by the authentic Colorados of the Republic who, through their sovereign and unappealable decision, consecrated the Argana-Ybanez ticket.

Second, to vote for the Colorado senator, deputy, governor, and departmental board candidates who were validly elected in the 27 December elections, but against the governor candidates imposed by the fraud.

Third, to determine that all the party authorities who represent the Argana-Ybanez ticket only observe the decisions made by the Colorado Reconciliation Movement's authorized leaders, who represent our party's authenticity and legitimacy at a time of institutional chaos and immorality. [applause]

Professor Dr. Luis Maria Argana and engineer Juan Bautista Ybanez. Thank you very much. [applause] [end recording]

Colorado Party President Seeks Party Unity, Visits Argana

PY1203140693 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Negotiations seeking to find Colorado Party [National Republican Association—ANR] unity officially began today.

ANR President Blas N. Riquelme met with Dr. Luis Maria Argana to lay the foundations for a political agreement.

Argana made it clear that he will not support the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket, while the ANR president confirmed that all posts are negotiable for the benefit of the party's unity.

Mr. Blas N. Riquelme left Dr. Luis Maria Argana's house after one and one half hours of talks. Riquelme pointed out that the meeting represented his most important negotiations since having been installed as ANR president.

Dr. Luis Maria Argana will support the ANR candidates as long as the candidate for president of the Republic is a Colorado. Argana will no longer ask to become a presidential candidate.

In keeping with this situation Blas N. Riquelme once again mentioned the possibility of changing the ANR presidential and vice presidential ticket, without advancing names, because he will primarily have to convince Wasmosy to give up his nomination.

[Begin recording] [Riquelme] Well now, I will absolutely not give you names or results for the time being, because ...

[Reporter] Is such a possibility being considered?

[Riquelme] Of course, already yesterday I said everything is being considered. All Colorados—and this makes me happy now—may give up their posts for the benefit of the party's unity. I confirm this.

[Reporter] Wasmosy says he will not give up his presidential nomination—over his dead body.

[Riquelme] Well, well, we shall wait on that. We will see what happens. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Atilio Fernandez Installed as Colorado Campaign Coordinator

PY1203185793 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 12 Mar 93 p 3

[Text] Senator Blas N. Riquelme, chairman of the Colorado Party, last night installed Atilio R. Fernandez as the party's electoral campaign coordinator for the May general election. Riquelme described the ceremony as one of a protocol nature and noted that the Colorado Party must immediately start its campaign nationwide. Fernandez pledged to devote all his efforts to the campaign in order to repeat the success he achieved during the election for Constituent Assembly members.

Accused Smuggler of Weapons to Iran Denies Involvement

PY1203210693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Mar 93 p 4

["Paid advertisement" signed by Gustavo Adolfo Saba, President Andres Rodriguez' son-in-law]

[Text] I refer to articles published by the daily ABC COLOR, which seek to involve me in the international sale of weapons to the Republic of Iran. I feel obliged to refute the data included in these articles, the purpose of which was to discredit my honor and my commercial name.

In its 28 February issue, the daily began a series of articles on the subject. This article states that the operation began during mid-1983 in Montevideo with the participation of the USB-Union des Banques Suisses of Geneva, and the Pan de Azucar Bank of Uruguay.

The same daily publishes on 7 March a second article which quotes "documents" which state that money was deposited in my account with the Pan de Azucar Bank in Montevideo, quoting telex messages and memoranda indicating my "probable" participation in the operation. It is specifically stated that, "in gratitude for" my alleged involvement, Kindrib Ltd. sent the Pan de Azucar Bank "several requests for the payment of commission to Saba." The same daily states in a sibylic manner that a "surprising letter sent by someone called 'Gustavo' refers to details of how the transaction documents should be prepared, stating that he would be in Geneva to personally conclude the alleged operation. The article hints that I am the alleged 'Gustavo.'" Needless to say, if my participation in the transaction consisted only of "influencing" Kindrib Ltd., I did not actively participate in the transaction or give detailed instructions to experts in the complex business of shipping weapons on how to prepare the documents, and I would not have had to go to Switzerland to "conclude" the operation. Operations are concluded by those who conduct the transactions, not by alleged middlemen.

I acknowledge that at the end of 1983, a certain Mr. Negre visited me, seeking to interest me in a triangular operation to sell weapons to the Republic of Iran. As I was not familiar with this type of transaction, I said that I would verify certain details before giving an answer. I remember him saying that he had some problems in concluding the operation, which had been started a few months before. Mr. Negre said he had to "increase" his contacts because those he had contacted had failed to conclude the operation. That same day I called him to say that I could not accept his offer. A few days later, the same Mr. Negre returned to my office, insisting on my participation. He showed me a letter addressed to the Pan de Azucar Bank referring to a $2.8 million deposit in my name and other papers proving the alleged legality of the transaction, including the participation of first-level banks in Switzerland and Great Britain, and mentioning that the U.S. Department of State was aware of the operation. I again refused the offer and told him to look for someone else. Mr. Negre believed my refusal resulted from a distrust of him. A few days later he sent me a memorandum through another person offering me all sorts of guarantees, such as irrevocable bank guarantees, the blocking of deposits conditioned to compliance with all the transaction terms, and so forth. He informed me that if an agreement were not reached "the United States would have no problem selling the materiel to other countries." My answer was the same. Mr. Negre insisted for quite some time, but after exchanging a few more notes with him, I considered the issue closed as far as my possible participation.

Alarmed by what is implied in articles that involve me in the weapons transaction, I wrote a letter to the Pan de Azucar Bank on 8 March, a copy of which appears as part of this paid advertisement. The bank answered me, a copy of which is also published here. Their reply states: **"After searching thoroughly and exhaustively for many days through our files for the years 1983 and 1984, we can confirm that we have received no deposit order in your name from any bank abroad and that we have not found any document endorsed by you."**

The Pan de Azucar document clearly proves that I have not received commission nor sold weapons to any country. It is true that I was offered the deal, but this does not authorize anyone to allege that I participated in it. People often come to me to offer me businesses that I not necessarily have to accept. **I am not responsible for the contents of letters or documents sent to me.**

Mr. Carlos Maria Di Giovanni and I only engaged in business together when we legally imported Japanese-made motorcycles through the Pan de Azucar Bank.

I inherited from my father a respected, solvent, and successful commercial enterprise, the image of which I have never stained. I remain loyal to this self-imposed rule and I believe that half truths may impair my commercial image.

Signed: Gustavo Adolfo Saba.

Col. Gonzalez Reinstated; Assigned to Desk Job

PY1203164693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Mar 93 p 8

[Excerpts] General Andres Rodriguez, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, this morning assigned Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas to a desk job at the Defense Ministry. Col. Gonzalez Rojas was thus reinstated as an active-service officer. He had been placed on availability status because of slander charges filed against him after he charged some senior officers with smuggling stolen vehicles.

After a brief meeting with Gen. Rodriguez, Col. Gonzalez Rojas told reporters that he is again on active duty and that he has been assigned to a job at the Defense Ministry. [passage omitted]

Asked if he will apply for retirement, Gonzalez Rojas said: Absolutely not. He added that he has always enjoyed desk jobs because they are more challenging and require greater attention. Smiling, he said: "I like desk jobs."

A reporter asked Col. Gonzalez Rojas the following question: During your tenure as aide de camp of General Alejandro Fretes Davalos, were you aware of cases (of arms trafficking) as published in today's newspapers?

Gonzalez Rojas said: No, no. I am completely unaware of anything like that. He then entered the Defense Ministry building to meet with Defense Minister Eumelio Bernal.

Negotiations With Brazil Over Unpaid Debts Yield Results

PY1403003893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Mar 93 p 13

[Text] Paraguay's official mission, led by the Ministries of Finance and of Industry and Commerce, has succeeded in getting the Government of Brazil—a bad debtor—to pay Paraguay overdue royalties on the Itaipu hydroelectric dam.

Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone returned yesterday and reported the details of lengthy negotiations involving the Brazilian ministers of finance and foreign relations. The Paraguayan finance minister will return tomorrow.

Scavone stated enthusiastically that the Brazilians will next week pay the debts that were due last year, and had in addition promised to pay the January and February debts by the end of March.

The 1992 debt surpasses $38 million, while that of 1993 so far amounts to $15 million.

According to an EFE report datelined Brasilia, the payment commitment was confirmed by Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

Collecting those amounts will bring considerable relief to efforts to provide the allocations scheduled in the national budget.

"We are happy because Brazilian officials have listened to us," said Scavone, upon disembarking from the private plane that had brought him back from Brasilia accompanied by Paraguayan Mines and Energy Vice Minister Juan H. Palmieri.

Details of the Debt

The debts that Brazil will pay next week are: $6.3 million, which is the balance of the December debt corresponding to the refinancing of unpaid royalties in 1990; and $16.2 and $16.3 million, which correspond respectively to October and November 1992.

The debts of January and February 1993—each in the amount of $7.5 million—were also included in the refinancing of unpaid royalties. The March debt will be paid later, Scavone said.

According to the treaty, royalties corresponding to the use of water, and compensation payments corresponding to the transfer to Brazil of the power that Paraguay does not use, should be paid monthly by Itaipu.

In the case of compensation payments Itaipu operates as the withholding agent on the amounts collected from Brazilian power distribution companies. The withheld amount is then transferred to the Paraguayan Government. Itaipu could not make payments to Paraguay because of fund shortages, because the Brazilian enterprises Furnas [Furnas Electric Power Plants, Inc.] and Eletrosul [Southern Electric Power Plants], which are supplied with electricity, owe Itaipu debts of approximately $4.3 billion.

Scavone said that this matter was also analyzed during the conversations he held with the Brazilian ministers of foreign affairs, finance, mines and energy, and industry. "The Itaipu income deficit problem is expected to be solved very soon," Scavone said.

Peru

Fujimori Addresses National Police Chiefs

PA1403231493 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Excerpt] In a speech to National Police chiefs, President Alberto Fujimori requested greater respect for female prisoners. The president also inaugurated a high school in Pachacamac.

The police chiefs talked for two days about the problems and progress made in their daily mission to protect citizens and safeguard public order. During a private meeting, prior to the closing of the event, Lieutenant General Victor Manuel Alva Plasencia, National Police director, recognized the lack of coordination among the regional chiefs, which has allowed terrorists to step up their actions and has caused the police to lose ground. This same message was repeated by the president in his closing speech. Fujimori added that despite the mistakes, which have been evaluated and will now be overcome, for the first time in 12 years, we are certain that terrorists will be defeated. The president's central message, however, was aimed at the police officers. He told them they should set the example of morals for their subordinates.

[Begin Fujimori recording] The chief of an institution, the chief of a police command, and each one of you, who are in charge of enforcing the law, should set the moral example. How will subordinates obey a superior or an officer, who is known for his involvement in cases of corruption or theft? Generals, you should observe human rights while performing your daily duties to avoid any type of [words indistinct] by the human rights groups, which have reported isolated cases of human rights violations. I want to cite a special human rights violation. [Words indistinct]. It has to do with violations, improper treatment, or [words indistinct] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Congress Includes Referendum in Constitution

PY1203155093 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 23 Feb 93 p 4

[Excerpt] The Democratic Constituent Congress on 22 February included in the new Constitution a section on the referendum as a mechanism of popular consultation. The rights of citizens to remove authorities and revoke their initiative to present draft bills also were included.

The section on the fundamental rights of the people was approved by 47 votes to eight after a long debate of more than one hour.

The Popular Christian Party bloc headed by Lourdes Flores and certain independents strongly opposed the decision.

Flores believes that a referendum in the hand of an authoritarian and influential government can become a tool to perpetuate power. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Soldiers Facing Drug-Trafficking Charges

PA1203174293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] Defense Minister Victor Malca Villanueva informed the congressional drugs commission that 74 soldiers are being tried for drug-trafficking charges. He categorically denied that Armed Forces officers pay bribes to serve in cocaine zones.

In his statement, Malca referred to the limitations faced by the Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking as well as the lack of adequate radars to detect light aircraft flying during the night, insufficient foreign aid, and a meager budget for equipment maintenance.

He reported that 46 light aircraft from the United States, Colombia, and Peru have been detected from April 1992 to the present. He also said that charges implicating members of the Armed Forces with drug trafficking are immediately investigated, noting that 59 legal investigations have been started thus far.

[Begin Malca recording] We cannot deny the existence of isolated cases of corruption, which are immediately investigated and punished administratively and also reported to the respective authorities. The Army has conducted 59 investigations. Fifty-one cases have been judged under military laws and eight under civil laws. The existence of isolated cases of corruption, however, do not necessarily imply the existence of systematic corruption within the government's high spheres. [end recording]

Malca denied that Army, Navy, or Air Force officers pay bribes so they can serve in cocaine zones. He added that within the framework of the moralization policy, 74 members of the Armed Forces are being tried for drug trafficking, 20 of them under civil laws.

16 'Terrorists' Arrested for Lima Attacks

PA1203182393 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Text] The National Counterterrorism Directorate, Dincote, on 12 March dealt a hard blow against subversive groups by capturing 16 terrorists responsible for various attacks in Lima.

Among the terrorists presented to the media on 12 March was Marco Antonio Vaca Rupay, director of the Shining Path People's Aid of Peru [director de socorro popular del Peru] and successor of terrorist Marta Huatay.

In the past few years, the 16 rebels have participated in ambushes against patrol cars and have murdered members of the Armed Forces and police.

126 Natives Escape From Shining Path Guerrillas

PA1403221993 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] The Political-Military Command of the Ucayali Front stated that on 4 March, 126 residents of the communities of Obiri, Majineri, and Anapati reached the village of Poyeni. These people were able to escape from Shining Path guerrillas who had kidnapped them. The group of natives consists of 75 children, 34 women, and 17 men, who are psychologically and physically hurt. They are receiving medical assistance.

Drug Traffickers' Airstrips Destroyed in Pucallpa

PY1203160493 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 24 Feb 93 p A9

[Text] Pucallpa, 23 Feb—On 23 February, drug traffickers lost two airstrips laid out on the Federico Basadre road linking Pucallpa and Tingo Maria. National Police reported the airstrips were used in 1992 to ship up to 600 tons of washed cocaine paste worth $900 million.

To prevent future landings by light airplanes, 15 concrete barriers were "stuck" one meter underground and spaced 260 meters apart. The barriers were built on the asphalt road at the entrance and exit of Libertad village, 11 km from Aguaytia.

The task was performed on 22-23 February by 500 Navy members with the support of 12 planes and helicopters.

Intelligence sources revealed that some eight light airplanes landed every night on these clandestine airstrips. Each plane loaded between 100 and 400 kg of cocaine under the terrorists' protection.

The drug traffickers fitted the road as two airstrips and cleared the bushes on the side.

The Navy, the Ucayali Front, the Corah [Upper Huallaga Coca Control and Reduction Agency], the 6th Air Territorial Region, and the U.S. DEA coordinated the operation.

The forces' presence frustrated the plans of the terrorists, who tried to attack the Corah workers assigned to build the barriers.

The Peruvian Air Force on 16 February attacked a plane about to take off from one of the airstrips. On 15 February, the drug traffickers themselves burned a plane that had a mechanical failure.

Articles View APRA Crisis, Need To Renew Party

PY1203160993

[Editorial Report] Lima EXPRESO in Spanish on 22 February publishes on page A10, under the heading "APRA Executive Committee Asked To Resign," a 340-word article asking the members of the APRA, American Popular Revolutionary Alliance, National Executive Committee, CEN, to resign to facilitate Alan Garcia's "dismissal" as Peruvian APRA Party, PAP, secretary general. The request was made by a group of representatives from the APRA renewal faction at the suggestion of Hernan Garrido Lecca, "who also suggested that a special party congress be called." The article explains that Garrido Lecca made these suggestions in a letter he sent from Colombia, where he is living in voluntary exile. He added that along with other party leaders and representatives from nongovernmental organizations, he will send several proposals to the Democratic Constituent Congress, calling for a review of the economic system that must be implemented in Peru, and environmental, consumer defense, labor, governmental structure, and drug enforcement measures. Meliciades Ochoa and other APRA leaders such as Ramiro Priale Zevallos and Luis Felipe de las Casas Orozco believe Garcia should analyze his performance as president and party leader. Ochoa pointed out the importance of new ideas and new program proposals to oppose those by veteran APRA members such as Armando Villanueva del Campo who insist on reaffirming the party's ideology.

Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish, dated the same day, carries on page 6 a 560-word article from Cusco about the proposal by a group of young APRA members for the immediate renewal of the PAP and criticism of the "Generation in March" movement. In a document signed by Tino Santander Joor, Juan Farfan, and Jorge Villanueva Aranibar, the youths say CEN members must tender their resignations "in view of their absolute ineffectiveness in managing the party." The article quotes Santander as saying: "An ideological congress must be called immediately." Farfan says: "Since 1980, we have been calling for the APRA's political renewal and the replacement of party programs." The article continues by quoting Santander's comments on the "Generation in March" movement: "They are spoiled brats. Their only merit is that their parents have occupied important positions in the party." The article concludes by saying that at the end of a 1987 congress, this group of Cusco youths threatened to go underground if the party leaders then did not listen to their requests.

U.S. Administration Reportedly Seeking Dialogue

PA1403225293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Felipe Ortiz de Ceballos and Francisco Sagasti, the Peruvians who reported to the U.S. Congress on the human rights situation in Peru during the week of 7 to 13 March, said the Clinton administration is seeking a more fluid dialogue with the Peruvian Government.

[Begin recording] [Ortiz] A U.S. congressional report recommended different options for what the U.S. Government's position should be. One option was to grant the aid to us; another was to grant the aid based on a series of very specific conditions; and another was to grant the aid gradually without specific conditions but evaluating how the situation changed over time.

[Sagasti] I believe it is not simply a matter of changing our image through marketing techniques or changing our image with journalists from THE WASHINGTON POST. The problem is to first show that we, as Peruvians, are capable of conducting a self-evaluation and that we are capable of eliminating human rights violations. It will be possible to portray a unified image abroad when we reach a national agreement. If we continue with these divisions in which some speak of human rights while others speak of violations, in which the government says one thing while others say something else, it will be almost impossible to change our image abroad. We need to reach a national consensus on this issue.

[Ortiz] Any political decision that is made should not be done mechanically. Decisions should not be made according to models used by countries. I believe it is necessary to learn more about the reality of each country. I believe this is positive in principle. The plurality of opinions is also important. Information provided by various people, institutions, and the media should be studied and explained. This way, our image will be better portrayed, as it should be, with pluralism and freedom. [end recording]

Committee Created To Promote 'Image, Reality' Abroad

PY1203160793 Lima CARETAS in Spanish 25 Feb 93 p 21

[From the "Snapshot" column]

[Excerpt] After the harsh international setback that the Support Group's collapse represented for Peru, the government has hastily created, through Supreme Decree No. 010-93-PCM published in the official gazette EL PERUANO on 23 February, the Peruvian Promotion Committee [Comision de Promocion del Peru—Promperu], which "must disseminate abroad the Peruvian image and reality."

The committee will be presided over by Alfonso Bustamante y Bustamante, minister of industry, tourism,

integration, and international trade relations, and it will be made up of Jorge Camet, economy and finance minister; Carlos Montoya, president of the Privatization Committee (Copri); and Juan Antonio Aguirre Roca, president of Confiep [National Confederation of Private Business]. This committee will be subject only to President Alberto Fujimori. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views U.S. Role Following End of Cold War

PY1203144093 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 25 Feb 93 p A22

[Editorial: "The Empire's Power"]

[Text] Economy Minister Jorge Camet told EXPRESO that the U.S. Government has finally approved its $105-million contribution to the Support Group; even though it came too late for the IMF directorate to approve an extended fund facility agreement for Peru during its meeting yesterday.

IMF approval now will take place within one or two weeks, and perhaps the meeting with the Paris Club, scheduled for March, will not suffer the expected delay and the reintegration timetable will remain unchanged.

The incident elicited bewilderment and discontent, prompting unpleasant economic damage and stress over seeing that a country like ours is dependent on a U.S. political decision. With very little tact, the new Democrat Administration, in its first government action concerning our country, rubbed our face in the dirt. To put it simply, the empire's power has been imposed on us. A vulgar way of showing who is in command.

It was not, however, a wise choice because respect for human rights in Peru—as is public knowledge and has moreover been amply demonstrated—is considerably better than it was two or three years ago.

Nobody—not even the number one superpower—can escape ridicule if it decides to kill a mosquito with an elephant gun. It is regrettable that an important issue like Peru's reinstatement in international trade should be at the mercy of such wayward elements as changes in U.S. domestic policy. The leading power in the world should be guided by professional rather than ideological criteria in its foreign policy; It is one thing to honor ones economic commitments within an interdependent family of nations, and quite another to be subjected to the moral standards and political whims of a ruling party which believes it can exert on others what it does not even demand of itself.

This clearly reflects the towering extent to which the United States has managed to consolidate its role of world guardian following the end of the Cold War. Peru must acknowledge this and maintain good relations with the United States, while at the same time seek, as an objective of its foreign policy, to develop relations with the other two world powers—Japan and Europe—compensating its extreme vulnerability to the political mood of the Empire.

This will be by no means an easy task. France yesterday reiterated that it will keep its distance from Japan until the new Democratic Party bureaucracy in Washington decides on a course of action. Japan, which has taken the lead in some productive and technological spheres, has not yet assumed a political leadership commensurate with its economic clout. Japan does not seem to be ready to make the political decision to act independently from the United States in a field that is seen to come under Washington's hegemony. Japan's attitude may result from the current difficult economic situation or just that it is trying to sell a good image and obtain a seat on the U.N. Security Council, which it obviously deserves.

We are all well aware that we cannot do without the IMF. What we must do, therefore, is to learn from our mistakes and design strategies that will enable us to do without American funds when the U.S. refuses to grant them. We will thus be able to prevent history from repeating itself.

Uruguay

General Strike Decreed as Government Crisis Continues

PY1303034393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1920 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Report by Jorge Figueroa]

[Text] Montevideo, 11 Mar (EFE)—A general 24-hour strike, which the main labor central has decreed in rejection of the government's neoliberal policy, is being staged today, with massive observance in Montevideo—where half of the Uruguayan population lives—but with less support in the rest of the country.

The strike, which was decreed by the Inter-Union Workers Plenum-National Convention of Workers (PIT-CNT), is a demonstration of solidarity with public education workers, who last week went on an indefinite strike, and with public health workers, who are demanding better salaries.

School teachers, who should have begun classes last Monday [8 March], are demanding a 100-percent increase in their salaries, or monthly earnings of 1,000 pesos ($276).

Oil workers from the National Administration of Fuels, Alcohol, and Portland Cement (ANCAP), which holds the fuel distribution monopoly, are also in conflict. Beacause of this, it has been necessary to import gasoline.

The strikers advocate support for public education and health and an end to the privatization of state-run enterprises, among them the gas company and the social security services.

The strikers are also demanding the immediate resignation of Economy Minister Ignacio de Posadas, the creation of new jobs, and unrestricted respect for union liberties.

Private and official banks are closed, but the Montevideo Stock Exchange is operating normally.

The majority of factories and industries remain closed, but the commercial area is operating almost normally.

An emergency service of the main transportation enterprise—operated by high-ranking personnel—is taking care of passenger transportation in Montevideo.

At Carrasco International Airport, EFE was informed that operations are normal. The port of Montevideo remains open, although only one foreign ship has asked for personnel for loading and unloading merchandise.

Newspapers were not printed, but radio and television have carried normal programming—in some cases with crews that have been authorized by the unions.

Public and private hospitals admit only patients with urgent cases, while in those public offices that remain open a majority of employees have joined the strike and there are few people present.

Retirement allowances and pensions are being paid by an emergency crew authorized by the respective unions, and the lottery draw scheduled for today will be performed normally.

Movie, theater, and carnival shows have been postponed, and a soccer game between the Uruguayan team of Penarol and the Argentine team of Huracan, which was scheduled for today, has been cancelled.

The government has not made an evaluation of the strike, because its main concern centers around the resolution of the internal crisis affecting the ruling Blanco Party, which broke out on Tuesday when the two largest party factions decided to no longer support President Luis Alberto Lacalle in Congress over disagreements with the economic policy.

In the past two days the Uruguayan president has had dozens of meetings and contacts in an effort to settle the most serious internal crisis that his party has confronted since he took power on 1 March 1990.

Juan Carlos Raffo Appointed New Transportation Minister

PY1203165793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0139 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Excerpt] Montevideo, 11 Mar (EFE)—President Luis Alberto Lacalle today accepted the resignation of Transportation and Public Works Minister Wilson Elso Goni, and he appointed in his place Juan Carlos Raffo, one of his most trusted supporters.

Raffo, who was elected deputy in 1989 for Paysandu Department, became senator for being in one of the top spots on the list of congressional candidates who supported Lacalle in the elections. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

President Perez Said Willing To Leave Presidency

PA1303165293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1627 GMT 13 Mar 93

[Text] Caracas, 13 Mar (AFP)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said on 13 March, that he is willing to leave his post if the Supreme Court of Justice rules that he should do so in the preferential dollars case. The Venezuelan attorney general has asked the Supreme Court to approve a preliminary hearing on merit [antejuicio de merito] in order to begin a trial [against President Perez] on embezzlement and misappropriation charges.

The Social Democrat president sent a letter to the Supreme Court asking that it "urgently study the request" sent by Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom.

President Perez Gives News Conference

PA1303200693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1605 GMT 13 Mar 93

[News conference by President Carlos Andres Perez at the Boyaca Room in the Miraflores Presidential Palace, moderated by unidentified government spokesman, with foreign and domestic correspondents—live]

[Excerpt] [Moderator] Journalists, welcome to the news conference given by the Venezuelan president. We will start with Televen Canal 10 journalist Teresa Lomeli's question.

[Lomeli] Mr. President, I did not expect to be the first but since I am to ask the first question I, of course, must ask your opinion on the attorney general's request for a preliminary hearing against you, Izaguirre, and former Foreign Minister Figueredo?

[Perez] This matter prompted me to call this news conference. The request for a preliminary hearing against the president of the Republic by an official who has the highest constitutional authorization to do so is, undoubtably, an unprecedented event of utmost importance. We can in no way deny that the attorney general of the Republic has authority in such matters.

First, the situation has caused us to note the importance and basic responsibilities of an official who has been given such important duties by the Constitution. It has also led us to ponder the serene and reflective manner with which a citizen, who has been vested with such attributes, must act. We have observed with some concern that although two investigations are currently being carried out —one by the Congressional Comptroller Subcommisison and the other by the Superior Court for the Protection of Public Property—he did not wait for the results of those investigations before presenting the request. I am concerned because a

decision of this nature—that the president be brought to trial—is being made impulsively. It is a decision of great responsibility as it has an impact on the country by prompting uncertainty when Venezuela is implementing economic reforms and also has influence abroad. I repeat, I cannot question the legitimacy of the attorney general's action. I cannot feel offended by his action because you must always be ready to confront your responsibilities when you assume a public position. As head of state, however, I feel a natural anguish for the hastiness taken in matters that can damage our economy or the country's image abroad.

My concern has led me to write a letter, which I sent to the president and members of the [Supreme] Court on 12 March. I stressed to them that matters such as this one, which prompts uncertainty and could have a direct impact on our national economy, are of an urgent nature. I requested that the court members declare the request [for a preliminary hearing] an urgent issue and that they resolve as soon as possible if there is merit to bring the president of the Republic to trial. A copy of my letter will be given to you right now by the Miraflores media director.

[Moderator] (Esteban Engle) from DPA, German news agency.

[Engle] Mr. President: There is a UN report stating that Venezuela has become the main recipient of dollars produced by Latin American drug trafficking. These dollars, according to Congress' reports, are mainly funneled through the construction industry. Construction industry growth figures have been used on many occasions by government representatives and by you, as indicators of Venezuela's economic growth and of your economic plan's success. My question is the following: Is the Venezuelan Government conscious of this danger; that is, the danger of what the flow of narcodollars into Venezuela represents?

My second question is: What action is your government ready to take to halt this flow of narcodollars. According to the Congressional Investigation Commission, this could represent between $10 to $20 billion; that is, almost the same amount of revenue that Venezuela receives for its petroleum exports.

[Perez] In defense of the Venezuelan construction industry, I want to say that the big Venezuelan businessmen who make the heaviest investments in the construction industry are very well known. I think it would be very difficult to accuse them of being suspects....[pauses] that their resources are a result of drug trafficking.

Their accounts and their finances are well known by the local banking system. It goes without saying, the government has access to this information to carry out any investigation concerning the origin of these funds. We cannot deny the possibility that money laundering is going on in Venezuela, but we cannot go around pointing fingers at the construction industrialists charging they are engaged in this practice.

Several months ago, we presented to the National Congress a draft bill to reform the narcotics law. This reform bill makes money laundering a crime. The problem is that in Venezuela, the law does not define money laundering as a crime, and therefore, there is no way to prosecute those engaged in it. We have been urging the Congress to pass the reform bill. I have reports that in the coming days, the reform to the law will be approved. This will allow us to take action against money launderers.

Two years ago, Venezuela signed with the U.S. Federal Reserve an agreement to control money laundering in Venezuela. In this regard, we make use of this agreement. We have asked local and international institutions that keep tabs on drug trafficking and money laundering to give us information so we can take action in Venezuela. Nevertheless, until the reform bill is approved, it is impossible to control this matter. We hope that in the coming weeks this reform bill will be approved so we can publish it and be more efficient in these cases.

[Moderator] Paola Badaracco from EL GLOBO.

[Badaracco] Good morning Mr. President. I would like to know, what is your opinion of what happened on 11 March in Congress. Also, what do you think will be your image at the end of your administration, following all of the incidents that have taken place; that is the 4 February and the 27 November incidents and the recent show [previous word in English] concerning the 250 million bolivars [word indistinct].

[Perez] There is no doubt that my second presidential term in Venezuela has been, as I said in my message, one of the most difficult in our nation's history. My fourth message to Congress is precisely a clear and straightforward reflection of what is currently happening in our country and of the heavy burden I have had to support. I have been the main actor in similar incidents. When I left the Interior Ministry 30 years ago to become a deputy, I was the main actor in similar incidents. The same sectors that on 11 March 1992 got up and left the Congress as a sign of protest against me, did the same in 1962 when I was struggling against the guerrillas. I wanted to point out this coincidence.

These are embarrassing incidents that occur in democratic nations. These are the negative incidents that can occur in a democracy. It is preferable that these incidents take place, even though they may be the result of the irrational attitudes of our compatriots, rather than having terror or repression prevent them from occurring. With the flourishing imagination we tropical inhabitants possess, the 11 March events were highlighted. When I left the Miraflores Palace, there was no....[pauses] when I left the Congress, no one was booing me. This rumor is totally false. I had planned to walk from Congress to Miraflores Palace. During this presidential term, I have only done this once. Due to the incident that occurred at the Congress at the beginning of the session, I decided to discreetly return by car. I made this decision, even

though the people—the journalists who were present may recall this—urged me to walk. I chose not to walk on that occasion.

[Badaracco] [Words indistinct]

[Perez] You know I have said many times I am a man with only one ambition—history. I want to go down in history as a man who was capable of overcoming the worst crisis in Venezuela's contemporary history. I want to go down in history as the man who left a legacy and adopted the appropriate actions for Venezuela's modernization and decentralization process. I want history to state that the irreversible changes currently taking place in our country were the result of the courage, with due modesty, with which I handled, as president of the Venezuelan people, this phase of our national life, when the most profound changes have taken place in our country.

[Moderator] Mr. Federico Figueroa, EFE news agency.

[Figueroa] Good morning, Mr. President. I would like to ask two questions. The first is: What is preventing a normalization of relations with Peru, considering that Mr. Alberto Fujimori said you must take the first step? The second question is: What lies ahead in Venezuela's future? Do you feel strong enough to conclude your term despite all the events which....

[Perez, interrupting] Do not cut my life short. I will live beyond the end of my term. [Perez laughs]

[Figueroa] I meant political strength after the latest events, the problems faced by your administration, the annulment of the special military court you created, the request for a trial, the incident that took place when the Congress session began—in sum, what has happened in Venezuela. Those of us who have recently arrived in Venezuela would think the president is cornered.

[Perez] The truth is that I cannot meddle in the minds and thoughts of a fellow countryman or of any person interested in what is going on in Venezuela. The inevitable conclusion any observer or analyst of the Venezuelan situation would have to reach is that the most profound changes in Venezuela have occurred during my four years of government. During my administration, the country was decentralized, presidency's omnipotent power was broken, the state's discretionary power was eliminated, provincial posts and state governorships were opened to popular elections, and mayors of cities, towns, and municipalities were chosen through direct elections.

We opened an economy that had been restrained and under the protection of subsidies and custom tariffs. All this was made more flexible. Venezuela is now competing. Over the past three years, Venezuela has registered the highest growth rate in Latin America, and even, I dare say, the highest growth rate in the world. This is the assessment we can make of this government administration. We are facing many difficulties. It could perhaps be said that I am the president who has had to face and overcome the most number of crises during a constitutional period. This is my summary.

As for your other question, you know the reasons that led Venezuela to suspend, not break, diplomatic relations with Peru. Venezuela wanted to show its repudiation of dictatorial governments. Venezuela wanted to be consistent with what it has advocated at the OAS and at other international organizations: The defense of the right to the sovereignty of the people is a supranational right that must be defended by supranational organizations. The United Nations and the OAS must defend the sovereignty of the people and their right to voice their will through elections. We wanted to say that dictators who offend and hurt the dignity of the people and the dignity of the world, must be repudiated by and isolated from the international community. That is what led me to that action.

There is no doubt that there have been positive developments in Peru. The large parties, which had not participated in the previous election, took part in recent municipal elections. A very different atmosphere is being created in Peru. There is no doubt about this.

As for your question on where Venezuela is headed, I will answer the obvious: The future.

[Moderator] Milagros Duran, of newspaper EL NACIONAL.

[Duran] President, the defense minister told the media recently that the Armed Forces cannot guarantee there would not be another coup attempt in Venezuela. This statement and a wave of rumors have increased uncertainty in the country. What can you say about this situation?

[Perez] This is a very delicate issue. I do not wish to say anything that could anger friendly reporters. The problem is not how you collect information, but rather, it is how you summarize news in headlines and editorials. The defense minister said...[pauses] his statements were placed within quotation marks in a newspaper I read. These very statements, however, appeared in the same newspaper without quotation marks, above those within quotation marks, but distorted. The minister said nothing could be guaranteed if people persist on maintaining the country in permanent stability. [sentence as heard] He added, however, the Armed Forces will do everything at their disposal to prevent a break in constitutional order. That is what the defense ministry actually said.

Rumors are a modern tool of subversion. The spreading of rumors is a destabilizing tool because of the ease with which the media can spread them. Yesterday, it was said that I was under arrest; that the defense minister had resigned; that a garrison had rebelled in Maracay; and that elsewhere they had...[pauses] those are rumors that are spread to create anguish.

I assure Venezuelans there is absolutely no possibility for a repeat of the 4 April and 27 November 1992 incidents. That shameful group of antidemocratic officials within the Armed Forces disappeared along with those actions.

The most important aspect about such actions is that the Armed Forces had a dramatic opportunity to show allegiance to the Constitution and to demonstrate their firm democratic principles.

The purpose of these rumors is to maintain a latent state of uncertainty and apprehension. This causes grave harm to the national economy. It is a reprehensible manner of conducting politics. That is why we cannot call it politics. Instead, we must simply call it subversion. You saw what happened on 11 March, which I would call a hasty decision by the attorney general. It was a time when Venezuelan shares abroad came to their lowest level, and the stock market here in Venezuela experienced a very significant drop. No reason can justify the failure by a Venezuelan authority to use his authorized powers when deemed necessary. There is never a justification for it. Those of us occupying high positions and having great powers must always put a great deal of thought into making decisions that may bring about internal disturbances or which may damage the country's image abroad.

[Moderator] Anne Haddison of UPI.

[Haddison] Mr. President, according to the attorney general, you would be forced to step down if the Supreme Court and the Senate accept the preliminary hearing against you, a case which involves $17 million. Under those circumstances, will you be ready to leave your post?

[Perez] Of course, this is not a matter of whether I am ready or not. I am a man who stands before history. I have shown the firmness of my commitment to democracy. I will never object to a decision issued by one of the country's officials. I have just stated that I do not have any legal or constitutional reason to question the attorney general's action. I, however, believe my fellow citizens should reflect on the historic consequences of such an action and if the measure was taken in an impulsive manner or for reasons other than the ones an official swears he will respect when he assumes a post.

[Moderator] Margarita Oropeza of Venevision.

[Oropeza] It has been said the attorney general's decision to request a preliminary hearing at the Supreme Court could have political overtones. How do you feel about this? Can you also tell us about the decision.... [pauses] well, about political overtones or political plans for the future. What is your opinion on the Supreme Court decision to void Decree 2969, which created extraordinary military councils to try the persons charged with trying to topple the government on 27 November?

[Perez] A few days ago, and in view of the insistent talk about the secret funds and the fate of the 250 million bolivares, I gave a speech that was broadcast by the radio media and published in the country's newspapers. At that time, I said that following the failure of several attempts—I was not forced to resign, the Court's did not allow a referendum on my mandate, and the blows did not bring me down—the last card has now been dealt, which is, to put me on trial. There could be political motives here, of course. I have no interest in getting involved in a confrontation with any authority. I respect my dignity and responsibilities too much, as head of state, as head of Venezuela's public power, to get involved in that.

On previous occasions, the national government has regretted the antagonistic nature of the attorney general's political statements. A few weeks ago, the government issued a communique on it. The Central Information Office published it. I also think we must have trust in our justice system and hope the Supreme Court will say this. [sentence as heard] It is regrettable that the attorney general did not wait for the results of the congressional investigation, as is the norm in these cases. It is also regrettable that the attorney general did not wait for the results of the Superior Court for the Protection of Public Property, which should be responsible for requesting the indictment before the Supreme Court of Justice, after conducting the investigation allowed by the law. It does not matter. As president, I am ready to face my responsibility at all times. That is why you see me facing my fellow countrymen now and telling them to have confidence in their president. Nobody will ever regret having voted for me. As for this matter of the ruling on the Decree, which the Court has not made official, although we know the Court issued a ruling, the government will simply abide by it, since the Court is the highest tribunal in the Republic.

Motivations are things that people and history must judge. I have no reason to doubt the uprightness of the Court officials and magistrates. They had their reason for issuing their ruling, just as the government did when it decided, as it did on previous occasions to cope with acts of subversive violence, to bring those persons to an extraordinary trial, based on what the government thinks the Constitutional and military justice code authorizes it to do. This is over and done with. The government abides by the decision without restraint.

[Moderator] Mr. Alfonso Navarro of the Mexican NOTIMEX news agency.

[Navarro] Good morning, Mr. President. I would like to know more about the attorney general's action. I would like to know what your expectations are. It has been reported that the action, which has undoubtably shaken the country, has not upset you, that you are actualy quite calm. Several years back, when you were confronted with the Sierra Nevada case, you said the investigation would not cause you to pull out any of the few hairs that you had left on your head. I would like to know your current expectations?

[Perez] A public man, who has tried to play an important role in his country and has not feared his responsibilities, is always subjected to many trials and tribulations during his political career. In my initial years as a politician, I experienced prison and persecution. Over the past years, I have had to go through many difficult situations. This

is not the first time that I have been subjected to a situation of this nature. The difference is that in the Sierra Nevada case, I had already left the presidency, where as now, I am fully excercising the presidency.

The current situation is more serious as it has a greater impact on the nation's tranquility. At the time of the Sierra Nevada case, the facts were proven in my favor. I became president of the Republic again after those charges had been cleared. It was the biggest clearance or historic discharge a man can be given. I, perhaps, on this occasion, will not be able to repeat this, but it will be the result of the calendar, and not for any other reason [chuckles]

Not long ago, another suit was brought against me. It was brought up by a political organization. The attorney general also tried to intervene in that case. You will recall that the court, after studying the file, declared that there were no merits for the case. Thus, as you have stated, this is not the first time such an event has arisen. Without wanting to compare myself or without trying to put on the jacket of an illustrious patriot, I believe history tells us that you cannot find a person, who has played an important role in the life of a nation, who has not been subjected to situations such as this one.

[Moderator] Thelma Monroy of Radio Caracas Television.

[Monroy] You have just stated that you will accept the court's decision. We would like to know what you will do if the court decides there is merit for the preliminary hearing. Also, what will you do if you are sued for violating the Constitution as a result of the article that created the Military Court. What will you do in both cases...

[Perez, interrupting] What court?

[Monroy] The Military Court. What will you do in both cases. I recently interviewed the president of the Superior Court for the Protection of Public Property and he told me you would probably be called to testify on the case of the 250 million [currency not specified]. We want to know what you will do in each of these specific actions and if you are willing....

[Perez, interrupting] The situation is very clear. I will do what the law determines because if it is true that I am a Democrat and that I faithfully comply with my duties as president of the Republic. I have to accept all the responsibilities that my task carries. The Supreme Court, the Congress, and the Senate will decide. I will do what the authorities decide without any doubt. I will face any contingency with a conscience that feels very certain and at ease over what I am doing. Regarding the charge that I violated the Constitution, I cannot see how the charge can be made. I have abided by the Constitution.

The court interpretations are very different but this has not come up yet. The men of action never dream. We never consider what could happen to us here or there. We confront the situation as it arises. My public life is transparent. Everybody will know that I did not shun any responsibility or renounce my stand on being a faithful observer of the law and of the Constitution of the Republic. [passage omitted]

Attorney General on Charges Against Perez

PA1203190793 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Mar 93

[Telephone interview with Venezuelan Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom in Caracas by unidentified reporters in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] On 11 March, the Venezuelan Government, through Attorney General Ramon Escovar Salom, filed suit against President Carlos Andres Perez before the Supreme Court of Justice. Escovar Salom served as foreign minister during President Perez's first administration. The president's responsibility is absolutely clear to me, and that is why I intend to bring the matter to trial, Escovar Salom said. Welcome, Dr. Escovar, how are you?

[Escovar] Good morning. I am pleased to have this talk with you and convey my warm greetings to the Colombians and Venezuelans listening to us.

[Reporter] On what do you base your inquest and charges against President Perez?

[Escovar] I base them on several documents produced during the course of the investigation by the Comptroller General's Office and during other investigations conducted by the Comptroller's Committee of the Chamber of Deputies. I also base them on court testimonies and on investigations conducted by my office. I feel there are sufficient grounds to bring charges before the Supreme Court against the president. I did this yesterday in a preliminary hearing (antejuicio de merito). All I did was to put into motion the mechanisms and measures contained in our legal and constitutional system.

[Reporter] You accused the president of embezzling or squandering $17 million dollars which were part of a secret fund. Can you be more specific about the charges?

[Escovar] I cannot be too specific because of the constraints of my office. Much of the information is contained in the files. In Venezuela, a phase of the process is secret. For that reason, I cannot ignore that provision. I can tell you that there are sufficient grounds to establish that the president bears a responsibility for what happened. It is hard to believe he was unaware of the situation. I feel this is extremely grave. There is no precedent in Venezuela for bringing charges against an incumbent president. Rather than destabilizing democracy, this is a way of enforcing the provisions established by the constitutional system. That is what they are for, to be used.

We must reinforce and exercise the muscles of the Constitution. In cases like this one, it is necessary to enforce those norms. That is why I did it. The attorney general is an autonomous official elected by the Congress for a five-year period, precisely so this official can have the necessary legal strength to be independent of the Executive Branch. I am not dependent on the Executive Branch or any other branch. The attorney general has the authority to intervene in matters of this sort and in others, including the defense citizens' rights, everything pertaining to the environment, and in public health matters. The attorney general's attributes are extremely broad.

[Reporter] But, Mr. Attorney General, when you say that President Perez is guilty of embezzling public funds, are you saying, or can it be understood that President Perez has pocketed $17 million?

[Escovar] I am not saying that. I simply wish for the situation to be cleared up. There are contradictions in the statements that have been....[pauses] that are on file and that are at the Congress. This needs to be cleared up. Venezuela....[pauses] the Venezuelan public has a right to know what has happened, even though the amounts and their usage are of a secret nature. Nevertheless, the state's secret funds are public funds. Clear accounts must be rendered on these funds, as is required in the administration of the state by a democratic system.

[Reporter] What is your response to those who charge that the accusation you have presented against President Perez at the Supreme Court of Justice are of a political nature?

[Escovar] This is not true, this is of a strictly legal nature. This matter is to establish the president's responsibility.

[Reporter] What is the procedure to follow after the Supreme Court of Justice studies and analyzes your 74-page document of charges?

[Escovar] The first step is for the court to establish whether or not there are grounds for the charges. If there are, then the case goes to the Senate. The Constitution establishes a procedure to follow. From a legal standpoint, this is nothing that has not been anticipated. Rules and regulations are not lacking for these cases. There are established rules. They must be submitted to and then applied to what is set out in the Constitution; there is nothing improvised here.

[Second reporter] What can happen to the president if he is found to be responsilbe for the charges you have presented?

[Escovar] He would be put on trial and he would have to step down from the presidency.

[Reporter] Does the court have a time limit to make a decision on your accusations?

[Escovar] I am certain there is a time limit.

[Reporter] When will the Court's decision be known?

[Escovar] There is a time limit for the Supreme Court of Justice's organic law, one of which is [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Politically speaking, is this the finishing off—as in the bullfights—of President Perez?

[Escovar] I do not want to make political or bullring analysis of legal matters, I am simply carrying out my duties as attorney general.

[Reporter] Mr. Attorney General....

[Escovar, interrupting] No matter how [word indistinct] the bullfighting comments are made in reference to political circumstances, I prefer not to use them.

[Reporter] Mr. Attorney General, did President Perez (?tolerate) irregular actions or did he embezzle government funds?

[Escovar] At this time I cannot respond to your question, I can only respond to my [word indistinct].

[Reporter] I am sure that you understand that there are some persons who do consider President Perez' case as being similar to that of Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello....

[Escovar, interrupting] I want to [word indistinct] the following. In the same way that each nation [words indistinct] each nation has its own unique mechanisms. In Brazil there is a system that differs from the system in Venezuela. The system in the United States is not identical either.

[Reporter] Nevertheless, the president's moral situation is the same as that of Collor de Mello.

[Escovar] I dare not venture to make ethical comparisons. I prefer not to make this comparison.

[Reporter] Mr. Attorney General: How has the media and the political leadership received your accusation against President Perez?

[Escovar] As far as the media is concerned, all local newspapers have given it front page coverage. It has been given top priority in the radio and television newscasts. The accusation has caused a stir. I have had the backing of hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans. The telephone calls yesterday and today have showed overwhelming support for my action as attorney general.

I should tell Colombians who are listening on Caracol that I have the support of decent Venezuelans. Only a group of corrupt individuals who have dishonored democracy in Venezuela are against me.

[Reporter] Mr. Attorney General, do you have political aspirations for the future?

[Escovar] As a Venezuelan citizen I have every right to have aspirations.

[Reporter] What office would you aspire to in the future?

[Escovar] There are possibilities of accepting a nomination to the presidency of the Republic. If there is a strong group behind me, I would accept the presidential nomination. But that question has been often asked by others, who say that my actions are political in nature. This is done as a means to undermine my actions.

This case has to do with whether or not the law has been violated. It does not have to do with whether or not I am a candidate. I am not a presidential candidate at this time. Perhaps I will become a presidential candidate in the future. This will depend on the political support I may receive.

For the time being I am not a presidential candidate, although there are many Venezuelans, both in Caracas and in the interior, who have expressed interest in the possibility. I am currently analyzing this possibility. I have the right to explore it. I have not yet made a decision.

[Reporter] Some ill-intentioned individuals may believe that you are preparing the grounds for your candidacy.

[Escovar] Ill-intentioned persons have the right to think what ever they want. Regarding the preparing of the grounds, that is an agricultural issue and I would rather not go into it at this time.

[Reporter] Dr. Ramon Escovar Salom, Venezuela's attorney general, we thank you for speaking with Caracol. Dr. Ramon Escovar Salon admitted to having presidential aspirations, but reaffirmed that at this time he is exercising his duties as attorney general. He said he is employing judicial and constitutional procedures to establish President Perez' responsibility in the misuse or embezzlement of secret funds. If the president is found to be responsible for those actions, then he would have to abandon his post.

Interior Minister on Coupists Sentences

PA1403152093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 12 March 93

[Text] Interior Affairs Minister Jose Ramon Carmona said the Executive Branch must abide by the Supreme Court of Justice's ruling which annuls the presidential decree ordering summary trials for those involved in the 27 November attempted coup. He added that there is no possibility this ruling can be reconsidered. However, Carmona stated that, as a lawyer, he disagrees with the Court's arguments. Carmona also said the biggest problem he finds with the Court's decision is that it does not help strengthen two essential principles in a democratic state, the rights to due process and defense.

[Begin Carmona recording] As a lawyer, the biggest problem I find is that the Executive Branch should have suspended the right to due process. Had the Executive Branch done so, there would obviously be no process. This would have created an absolute legal gap. To overcome this legal gap, the Executive Branch should have established the procedure to be followed through a decree. [end recording]

Finance Ministry Delivers Report on Income

PA1303041293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 11 Mar 93

[Text] The Finance Ministry report delivered to Congress on 11 March emphasizes as basic objectives the promotion of tax reform, the strengthening and broadening of supervision and control for the financial system, and the reform and reconstruction of the Finance Ministry.

The Finance Ministry report explains the macroeconomic situation; tax, customs, and financial reforms; and the actions undertaken in the field of public credit.

With regard to income, the oil industry reported 485.42 billion bolivares, which it attributed to the fall of crude oil prices. The drop of aluminum prices on international markets worsened the situation. The freezing of gasoline and electricity prices in accordance with recommendations made by the Consultation Council also had an effect on income. All these factors affected public financial operations.

Proceeds from the distribution of automobile gasoline and other petroleum derivatives amounted to 27.63 million bolivares. That amount is less than the proposed goal of 36.0 percent. As a result, the Finance Ministry intensified tax collection. The amount collected in internal taxes amounted to 49.6 percent compared to 1991. This means that in 1992 proceeds from nonpetroleum taxes, internal revenue, and customs surpassed the goals foreseen in the budget law by reaching 184.5 billion bolivares, as compared to the 123.26 billion bolivares collected in 1991.

Customs income increased by 50 percent, tax collection from income taxes increased by 49 percent, and internal revenue increased by 31 percent. In accordance with these numbers, tax income amounts to 836 billion bolivares: 721.96 billion from ordinary income and 114.92 billion from extraordinary income. All these formed part of expenditures for fiscal year 1992, which amounted to 1,002,246.66 million bolivares, of which 86.1 percent were assigned through the budget law and the remaining 13.9 percent correspond to additional credit and reductions.

In the tax reform, a plan aimed at diversifying the tax income sources and reducing the dependency on petroleum is being developed. Regarding public credit, one of the 1992 objectives was to create the financing sources needed to meet the needs of public sector programs.

Regarding financial reform, the intermediate system of supervisory organizations for deposit guarantees and the banking protection system was strengthened, as was the Finance Ministry reform process.

In short, these objectives were met by the Finance Ministry.

Guyana

Finance Minister Presents Budget 12 Mar

FL1403201893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1944 GMT 14 Mar 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, March 14, CANA—Guyana's Finance Minister Asgar Ally, describing the national budget as a "caring" one, says his government will depend heavily on debt relief to plug a U.S. 180 million dollar deficit over the next three years.

"Under current assumptions and taking account of amortisation payments, IMF repurchase obligations, net flows of private capital, debt relief already obtained, balanced of payments support, and a targeted buildup of gross official reserves, Mr. Speaker, there remains a total financing gap of U.S. 180 million dollars for the period 1993-96," Ally told the National Assembly Friday [12 March] evening while presenting the budget.

"This financing gap is expected to be closed by debt relief. This, Mr. Speaker, will be one of the major tasks that the government will confront in 1993. We are hopeful that, as in the past, our bilateral supporters will assist us again in meeting our external obligations," Ally said.

His first presentation as finance minister for the ruling People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/Civic) to a packed National Assembly took almost two and a half hours. The finance minister said the country would need interest reductions and extended grace periods to convert its nonconcessional terms to concessional terms, and generous conditions even in its concessional debt obligations to help plug the U.S. 180 million dollar gap.

"The government will intensify its appeals to bilateral creditors to provide us with Trinidad terms arrangements, which will provide greater relief to our debt burden problem," he told the National Assembly.

Ally said the 1993 fiscal package addressed the following questions: "Where are we? What brought us here? and, Which is the way forward?"

He severely criticised the previous handling of Guyana's economy by the defeated People's National Congress (PNC), saying the "PNC hurricane levelled everything in its path, leaving no gain, but a great deal of pain in its trail." Because of the country's U.S. 2.1 billion dollar foreign debt, which Ally described as a "PNC debt legacy," it had saddled every Guyanese man, woman, and child with a "social debt" of G349 518 dollars, he contended.

Keeping with his prebudget promise to focus on education and health in his first package, the finance minister announced a 54 and 44 per cent hike in current expenditure on these two sectors. He also unveiled 18 per cent for agriculture and 25 per cent for the police force.

"Mr. Speaker, these increases were made possible by savings from inefficiencies, reductions in waste, and diversion of resources from low priority to high priority programmes," Ally, a former deputy governor of Jamaica's Central Bank, said.

Ally said the government was predicting a near 8 per cent Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth this year, a decline in inflation from about 14 per cent to 9 per cent, an increase in gross international foreign reserves by U.S. 13 million dollars, an overall fiscal deficit as a per cent of GDP of 40.1 per cent, an increase in bank lending for the private sector, and a primary current account balance as per cent of GDP of 19.1 per cent.

GDP growth will be stimulated mainly by an expansion in the mining and agricultural sectors. The mining sector is projected to grow by almost 69 per cent, led by the gold subsector while the agricultural sector is estimated at 3 per cent, led by rice. A 6.1 per cent growth is expected in manufacturing.

But, Ally stressed that debt servicing would continue to be "problematic" this year despite U.S. 36 million dollrs in debt relief. The debt service will account for 28.4 per cent of exports.

He said: "Gross international reserves are targeted to increase by U.S. 13 million dollars this year, leaving the country with a financing gap of U.S. 23 million dollars. We will appeal to our friends in the international community to assist us to secure critical assistance to close this gap."

On fiscal projections for this year, the finance minister said he expected to collect about G21.3 billion dollars this year, an increase of almost 20 per cent. Of this, the Customs and Excise Department, now undergoing reorganisation and streamlining to boost revenue collections, was expected to provide G7.8 billion dollars and the Inland Revenue Department G8.3 billion dollar.

Ally blamed the current economic and social problems on the former ruling People's National Congress (PNC), adding the new government is committed to correct the "deplorable state of ruin and neglect." But, he acknowledged the "ills and wrongs of 28 years cannot be righted in the fleeting breath of 12 months."

Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including mothers, pensioners, widows, and social assistance recipients, would receive income supplements of G5,000 dollars monthly to help cushion the impact of structural adjustment. "In addition, low paid public servants will receive G550 dollars per month."

Announcing a 10 per cent hike in combined corporate tax from 35 to 45 per cent on all comercial companies operating here, Ally said they would have to make advance payments of corporation tax from March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15 this year before the increase becomes effective on January 1, 1994.

Taxes will be increased on licence fees for vehicles, trading and betting shop licences, road traffic vehicle fees, airport departure tax, tax on airline tickets, professional fees, and revenue stamps on passports. Increases of 100 per cent have also been levied on vehicle licences, certificate of fitness, trade and huckster's licences. The government has also added a 50 per cent hike on the tax on airline tickets, taking it from 10 per cent to 15 per cent.